

PE
1143
F78
1870
MAIN

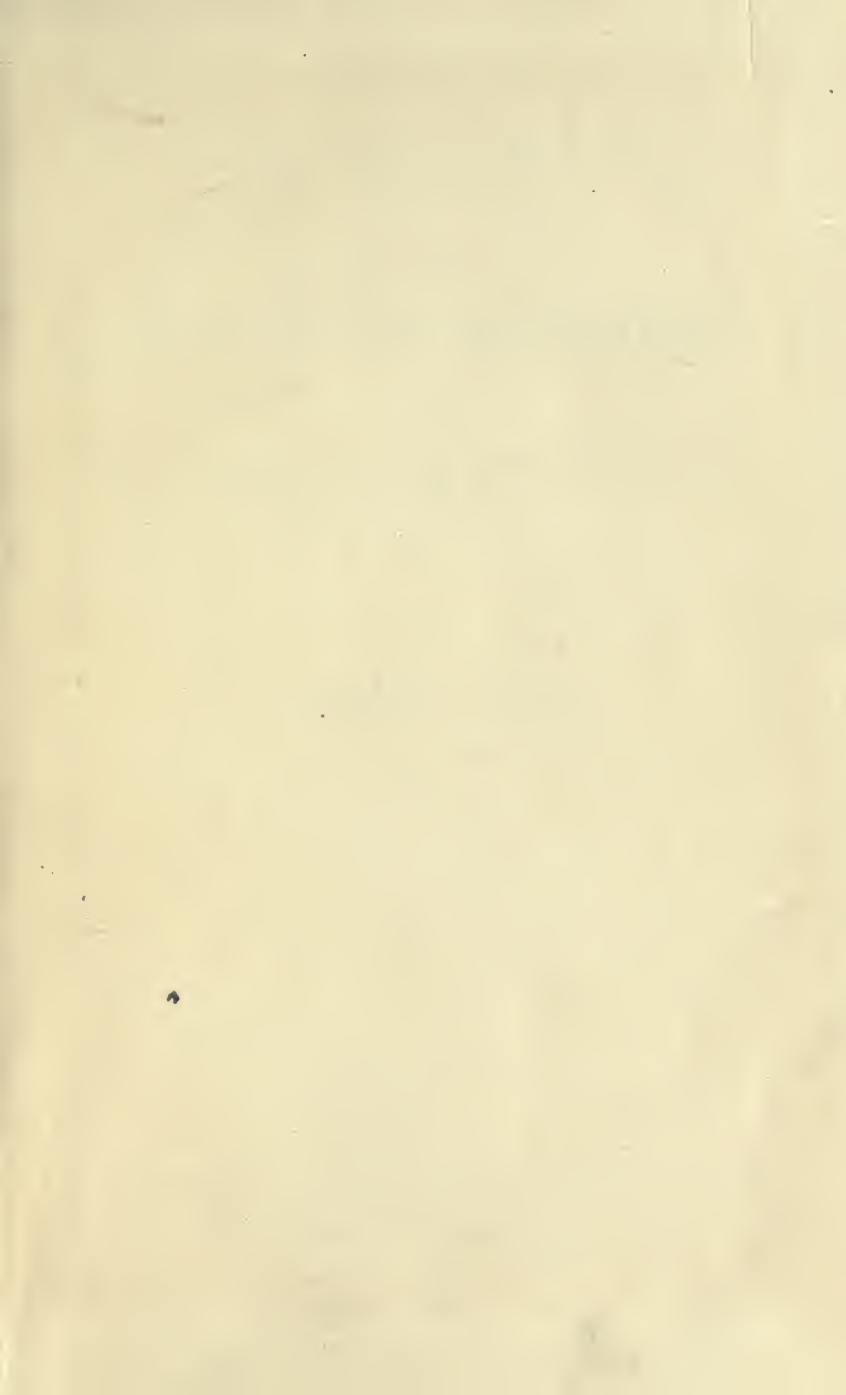
UC-NRLF



\$B 623 826



BERKELEY
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2008 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

ON
THE IMPROVEMENT
OF
ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY:

BEING A PAPER READ AT THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY, ON THE 6TH OF MAY,
1870.

BY
DANBY P. FRY,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW, TREASURER OF THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

LONDON:
ASHER & CO., 13, BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN,
AND
11 UNTER DEN LINDEN, BERLIN.
—
1870.

THE UNIVERSITY OF

CHICAGO LIBRARY

1917

CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A.

1917

CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A.

CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A.

1917

PE1143

F78

1870

MAIN

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Note, as to the spelling in this paper. - - - -	1
I.—Introductory Remarks. - - - -	3
II.—The Completion of the Alphabet. - - - -	6
III.—The Digraphic System. - - - -	14
IV.—The Improvement of the Orthography. - - - -	24
V.—Phonetic Spelling. - - - -	31
VI.—Proposed Course of Action. - - - -	35
VII.—Suggested Alterations. - - - -	38
ph : f - - - -	40
v - - - -	41
th - - - -	44
dh - - - -	45
c; s; z - - - -	48
c; k; q; x - - - -	50
ch: (Latin); (French); (English). - - - -	52
g (gai); g (jee); j (jai). - - - -	53
ng - - - -	55
gh - - - -	56
rh - - - -	58
ci; si; ti; su; tu - - - -	58
Index Letters: u; e - - - -	59
Silent Letters - - - -	60
Vowel Spelling - - - -	62

ON
THE IMPROVEMENT
OF
ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY.

BY DANBY P. FRY.

NOTE.

In dhe following pajes dhe words ar spelt in conformity widh dhose chanjes which ar suggested for *immediate* adoption. Furdher chanjes must await dhe result ov fuller discussion.

Dhe chanjes now suggested, and here adopted, ar az follows :—

1. To uze *dh* for dhe flat *th*, i.e. dhe sound ov *th* in *then*. Dhis digraph iz here employed in evvery word in which dhat sound occurs.

2. To treat *v* like any odher consonant ; and hence, (a) to double it in dhe same positions in which any odher consonant would be doubled ; az *evver*, *givving*, *shorvel* : (b) to allow it to cloze a word or syllable wherevver any odher consonant would do so, and consequently to omit dhe following *e* whenever it iz not required to mark a long vowel ; az *hav*, *giv*, *leav*, *bereav*, *bereavment*. Dhe word *ov* (dhough not followed by *e*) falls into dhis class, being spelt in dhe current orthography widh *f* (of) in order to avoid a final *v*.

3. To substitute dhe letter *j* for dhe letter *g* wherevver dhe latter has dhe sound ov *j*, except in dhose Latin and Greek words which hav *g* in dhe original ; az, *chanje*, *stranje*, but *angel*, *stratagem*.

4. To employ *f* or *ff* in sted ov dhe trigraph *-ugh* in words like *enough*, here spelt *enuff*.

5. To omit dhe servile *e* after *z*, whenever it iz not required to mark a long vowel ; az, *frees*, *gaux* ; and generally to expel dhe servile *e* wherevver it iz useless.

Dhe foregoing rules ar intended to be observed throughout; and if any word should occur in which dhey ar not observed, it must be ascribed to an accidental misprint. Dhe grounds on which dhese rules rest will be discussed in dhe paper itself.

With respect to dhe vowels, no rules ar here laid down, because it iz believed dhat no satisfactory conclusions can be com to on dhat complicated subject, until it has undergone a far more complete examination in all its bearings dhan it has yet received. Som remarks upon it will be found in dhe following paper; and where any chanjes ar made in dhe orthography in dhat respect, dhey will be sufficiently apparent. Dhey must necessarily, in dhe present state ov dhe question, be entirely experimental.

I hav suggested dhat certain consonants should receiv a second name, on dhe principle dhat where a letter has two recognized or normal values, it ought to hav two alphabetic names; dhus:—

- c, kee, when guttural, as in *call*.
- c, see, when sibilant, as in *cell*.
- g, gai, when guttural, as in *go*.
- g, jee, when sibilant, as in *gem*.
- r, ree, when trilled, as in *rat*.
- r, ar, when “soft,” or untrilled, as in *tar*.
- w, double u, when a vowel, as in *dew*.
- w, wee, when a consonant, as in *wed*.
- y, wi, when a vowel, as in *city*.
- y, yai, when a consonant, as in *yet*.

Dhese names will be uzed accordingly, when occasion requires, in dhe following paper.

With regard to s, I hav suggested no alteration ov dhe name, in dhe hope and expectation dhat dhis letter may be eventually confined to dhe *sharp* sound; dhe *flat* sound being denoted by z, in all cases. Dhis cannot be accomplished *per saltum*. Meanwhile, widhout laying down here any rule, widh respect to dhe use ov s and z, I may refer to dhe remarks on dhe subject contained in dhe following paper.

I.—INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

On the 5th November, 1869, I submitted to the Council of the Philological Society certain resolutions, in which, after referring to the remarks on the subject of English orthography contained in the Report for 1868, of the Rev. J. Rice Byrne, Inspector of Schools, and in a letter from Mr. Russell Martineau, appended to that Report, I proposed that the Council should express the opinion that "it is very desirable, if it be practicable, to correct the anomalies of English spelling," and further, that "it is quite practicable to accomplish this desirable object, if such a system be adopted as will ensure due regard to the claims of Etymology while it truly represents the Pronunciation, and if the necessary changes be carefully considered, so as to be confined within the narrowest limits, and introduced with moderation and discretion."

The Council did not adopt these proposed resolutions, but appointed a Committee in the following terms:—

"The Council of the Philological Society, thinking that it is desirable and practicable to amend the Orthography of the English language, appoint the following members—Mr. A. J. Ellis, Mr. R. Morris, Mr. J. Payne, Mr. R. Martineau, Mr. D. P. Fry,—to be a committee, with power to add to their number, to consider the direction, extent, and nature of such amendments, and to report thereon to the Society."

The Committee added two members to their number, namely, Mr. H. B. Wheatley and Mr. J. A. H. Murray; but being unable, after several meetings, to come to an agreement on the subject, they reported to that effect to the Council on 21st January, 1870. It was then agreed that an opportunity should be afforded to Mr. Ellis and myself, for submitting to the Society our respective views; and I now propose to lay before you accordingly the suggestions which have occurred to me upon the subject.

Before doing so, I will quote the passage, above referred to, in Mr. Byrne's Report, which is contained in the Appendix

to the Report of the Committee of Council on Education, dated 19th May, 1869. Mr. Byrne says:—

“I conclude my remarks on the condition of schools receiving annual grants, with a few words on a subject of the greatest importance in elementary teaching,—that of spelling. Proficiency in spelling is recorded in the examination schedule under the head of writing. Of 9,287 scholars presented for examination in writing, no less than 988, or more than one-tenth, were failures. Of these failures a large proportion were due to words mis-spelt in writing out passages from dictation. Were these subtracted, I believe that the failures in writing (meaning handwriting) would be found to be fewer than those in reading, writing being the easier to teach because the more mechanical, and requiring the least exertion of the intelligence.

“The difficulties to be overcome in teaching spelling can scarcely be overrated. Most of them are inseparable from the very nature of English spelling, as at present in use. Any suggestion therefore should be welcomed, which would have for its object to permanently lighten the labours of the school teacher, and clear away one of the most serious impediments to the acquisition of elementary learning. It is on this account that I have ventured to insert as an appendix to my report a letter addressed to me by Mr. Russell Martineau, embodying some remarks made by him upon English spelling in a paper read before the Philological Society. Mr. Martineau, after pointing out several of the absurdities involved in our present mode of spelling, suggests the advisability of a reform upon the basis of accommodating spelling, as far as possible, to pronunciation, and proposes the drawing up of such a scheme of reformation, under your lordships’ sanction, as might with advantage be enforced upon the teachers in our elementary and normal schools, and in due course prevail throughout the nation generally. The case of the new Latin primer, imposed on public schools with the common consent and by the authority of a committee of public schoolmasters, may fairly be quoted as a precedent. I cordially recommend this proposal to your Lordships for your

consideration, as calculated to meet a difficulty in elementary teaching which I had myself remarked upon, and materially to benefit the cause of education."

I cannot but think dhat it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to carry into effect dthese suggestions and recommendations. Whatever may be dhe defects ov English spelling, or dhe difficulties ov teaching it, dhe Committee ov Council on Education would surely not be justified in compelling dhe teachers in our elementary and normal schools to teach dhe children to adopt a mode ov spelling different from dhat which iz in current use. A boy must be taught dhe orthography which he iz to employ in after-life, and dhat must be dhe recognized and established orthography. Dhe reformation ov dhe orthography itself must preceed any chanje in dhe teaching. It iz not, however, from dhis point ov vew¹ dhat I regard dhe subject. It iz not for dhe sake ov lightening dhe labors of dhe teachers, but for dhe sake ov improoving our literature and language, dhat dhe amendment ov our orthography appears to me to be desirable; dhough, no dout, one consequence would follow from dhe odher. If dhe spelling were more consistent, it would certainly be easier to teach. Dhe case ov dhe new Latin primer iz scaircely, perhaps, in point, az it did not alter dhe Latin language, but merely improoved dhe mode ov teaching it. Still, it shows dhat if our orthography were really amended, improoved methods ov teaching it might afterwards be adopted by general consent. In dhe mean while it can hardly be seriously maintained dhat one kind ov orthography should be taught in public or private schools among dhe upper and middle classes ov Society, and dhat anodher kind ov orthography should be taught in state-aided and rate-aided schools among dhe odher classes of Society, even widh dhe hope dhat dhe latter may "in due course prevail throughout the nation generally." We must amend our spelling first, and teach it az amended, afterwards.

¹ *vew*, boath on phonetic and on etymological grounds: Old French, *veüë* (for *vedütë*, Ital. *vedùta*). *View* was originally a dissyllable, accented on the last (*w*=*oo*): *vie'w*.

II.—THE COMPLETION OF THE ALPHABET.

On the 17th of November, 1869, I submitted to the Committee appointed by the Council the following resolutions:—

“1. That the question of spelling reform involves two distinct, although connected, questions: first, the completion of the alphabet; and, second, the improvement of the orthography.

“2. That the two chief defects of the existing alphabet are: first, that there is no distinction between the short and long vowels; and, second, that nearly all the so-called “aspirate” sounds, as well as the naso-guttural, are unrepresented.

“3. That these defects have been more or less supplied by a system of digraphs, a “digraph” being a combination of *two letters denoting a single sound*, whether simple or diphthongal. In *mishap*, *s* and *h* are two letters denoting two sounds; but in *bishop*, *s* and *h* form a “digraph” denoting one sound.

“4. That it is very desirable that the system of digraphs now in use in English should be recognized as being what it really is—an addition to the alphabet. If an alphabet is a collection of the symbols actually employed to denote the separate, single sounds in the language, then, in English, there are in fact two alphabets—first, the ordinary alphabet of single letters; and second, an auxiliary alphabet of digraphs.

“5. That it is now proposed to recognize the auxiliary alphabet as such by adding it at once to the ordinary alphabet, appending it at the end.

“6. That the consonant digraphs in actual use are “ng,” denoting the naso-guttural sound, as in *long*; and those formed with the letter *h*, which either actually represent or were originally designed to represent a particular class of sounds, the so-called “aspirates,” namely, *ch*, *gh*, *kh*, *ph*, *rh*, *sh*, *th*, and *wh*.

“7. That two of our so-called “aspirate” sounds are still without any distinct representative at all, either single letter or digraph, namely, the two sounds which would be represented, according to the same system, by the digraphs *dh* and *zh*, i. e., the sound of *th* in *the*, and the sound of *z* in *azure* (French *j*). It is proposed that these two digraphs, *dh* and *zh*, should be adopted as the recognized representatives of the two sounds in question, and included in the auxiliary alphabet accordingly.

"8. That the vowel digraphs are very numerous, and with regard to their introduction into the auxiliary alphabet, two courses are open : first, to include them all ; or, second, to select and to include only those which have come to be regarded as the standard or normal symbols. It is proposed that the latter course should be adopted.

"9. That besides the employment of vowel digraphs, two contrivances are resorted to in actual spelling to mark the distinction between the long and short vowels, namely, adding a mute *e* to denote a long vowel, and doubling the consonant to denote a short vowel. It is not necessary to deal with these two practices in proceeding with the completion of the alphabet ; but it will be necessary to consider them in connection with the improvement of the orthography.

"10. That in settling the characters to be used for the vowel sounds, it is advisable to adhere to the rule of denoting the short vowels by single letters, and the long vowels by digraphs.

"11. That in pursuance of this rule it is proposed to revive the use of the letter *v* as a vowel, and to employ it to denote the short vowel in words pronounced like *full* ; which will not interfere in any way with the employment of the same letter as a consonant.

"12. That the influence of *r* on preceding vowels is a question which has not yet been fully investigated, and pending the inquiry it is not perhaps advisable to make any change in the mode of representing such vowels. It may, indeed, be found to be more convenient to modify the spelling of the *r*.

"13. That, without in any way touching upon the question as to the mode of spelling individual words, the following letters and digraphs are proposed for adoption as the standard or normal symbols for the recognized vowels :—

Short i as in fin,				Long ee as in feel.
„ e „	fell.	„	ai „	fail.
„ a „	fan.	„	aa „	bazaar.
„ o „	folly	„	au „	fault.
„ u „	fun.	„	oa „	foal.
„ v „	full. (fvll).	„	oo „	fool.

"14. That the diphthongal sounds of *i* and *u* (as in *file* and *fuel*) having now become identified with those letters, it is not proposed to interfere with them. The diphthongal digraphs *oi*

and *ou* (as in *foil* and *foul*) will of course claim their place in the auxiliary alphabet. The question as to using *y* and *w* as final letters instead of *i* and *u* need not be considered at present, but will require to be discussed in reference to the improvement of the orthography.

“15. That although a digraph is open to the objection that the two letters composing it are sometimes pronounced as two sounds, and not as one, yet this objection may be met, and the separate sounds marked, by inserting a hyphen between the two letters or placing two dots over one of them; thus, bishop, mis-hap; cooper, coöperate. It is not to be expected that people in general will take the trouble to place these marks in writing, but it is extremely desirable that they should be invariably placed in printing, so that a reader may know with certainty whether the particular combination before him is to be pronounced as two letters or as a digraph.”

There iz one point in dhe abov Resolutions on which I desire to introduce a slight modification. In dhe 11th Resolution, I proposed to revive dhe use ov dhe letter *v* az a vowel, to denote dhe short vowel sound in words like *full*; but az dhis proposal has been objected to on dhe ground dhat it might lead to some confusion in dhe use ov *v* for vowel and consonant (dhough I do not myself believ dhat it would do so), I am induced to suggest dhat dhe difficulty may be met by dhe future employment ov dhe two existing forms ov dhe letter *u* in distinct capacities. At present,—at least in printing,—we hav one form for dhe capital letter, *U*, and another for dhe small letter, *u*. Now it seems to me dhat if dhe capital and dhe small letter had in each case dhe same form, differing only in size, one form might be appropriated to one sound and dhe odher form to dhe odher sound; so dhat *u* might represent dhe vowel sound in *bull*, and *u* dhe vowel sound in *but*.

bull : *bull*

but : *but*

There iz not dhe slightest difficulty in making dhe requisit distinction between dhe two letters in handwriting, az any one will find who will try dhe experiment.

The establishment ov dhis distinction would be similar to dhat which has been made widhin a verry recent period between u and v, az vowel and consonant, and would only, in fact, be carrying dhat distinction one step furdher. While keeping dhe pointed form ov dhe letter for dhe consonant, it would assign dhe rounded form to dhe vowel-sound to which it originally belonged.

I should dherefor propose to add dhis letter (which iz not a new letter) to dhe ordinary Alphabet, placing it after *u* and before *v*, and givving it dhe name ov "Short *oo*." By dhis means, we should secure dhe great advantaje ov denoting dhe six short vowel-sounds by six single letters,—assigning a separate letter to each sound.

The question ov dhe *alphabetic names* ov dhe letters iz one ov considerable importance, not only in teaching, but in odher respects. Not only ar children dredfully puzzled by dhem in learning to spell, but peeple ar continually misled by dhem boath in spelling and in pronouncing individual words. Indeed, many chanjes in pronunciation ar traceable directly to dhe influence ov dhe alphabetic names ov dhe letters, which ar often erroneously supposed to represent dheir orthographic powers. I venture to suggest dhat where a letter has two recognized or standard values, it should be allowed two names. Dhere iz, perhaps, nothing ov which teachers so frequently complain az dhe illogical and deceptiv character ov English spelling; but if a child were taught to say, kee, a, tee, cat; dee, o, gai, dog; he would at least be saved from dhe mischievous absurdity ov being told dhat see, a, tee, spells cat, and dee, o, jee, spells dog. Dthese examples ar often adduced az proofs ov dhe inconsistency ov our orthography and dhe necessity for its reform; but a little reflexion will show dhat dhis argument iz founded on a stranje misconception ov dhe facts. Dhe word *dog* iz one ov dhe best spelt words in dhe language. It does not seem possible to improov it; nor does any one, so far az I am aware, propose to alter it. Even dhose who complain moast about it do not suggest any chanje in it. It iz obvious, indeed, dhat dhe fault iz not in dhe orthography ov dhe

word, but solely in dhe alphabetic name ov its last letter. Dhe learner naturally supposes dhat “dee, o, jee,” must be pronounced *doj*, and iz surprised to find dhat it iz really pronounced *dog*. If dhe last letter were called *gai*, dhis difficulty would vanish.

Dhere can be no dout, I think, dhat dhe Greek and Hebrew system ov givving *proper names* to dhe letters iz in som respects preferable to dhe Latin and English practice ov givving dhem *phonetic names*. Dhere iz, howevver, no question before us az to adopting “proper names” for our letters; no one proposes dhis; and dhe only question iz, whedher we should not do wisely to improov dhe “phonetic names” so az to render dhem consistent with dhe orthographic uses ov dhe letters. Dhere ar, indeed, in dhe English alphabet, two letters with “proper names,”—*zed*, which iz dhe Greek *zeta*; and *double u*, which iz a descriptiv name ov our own invention. Dhe name ov *wi* iz phonetic, combining dhe original labial sound (Greek *v*) with its most common English sound, az dhe equivalent of *i*. (In French, dhis letter has a “proper name,”—*y grec*). Dhe name ov *aitsh* iz open to som discussion; but I believ it to be phonetic, and not descriptiv. All dhe odher letters hav clearly phonetic names, givven originally on dhe plan, az regards dhe vowels, ov simply pronouncing dhem, and az regards dhe consonants, ov uttering dhe mutes with a vowel following, and all dhe odhers with a vowel preceeding, except *vee* and *jai*, which follow dhe analogy ov dhe mutes; dhus:—

Mutes.

bee
gee
dee

pee
{ cee }
{ kai }
{ qu }
tee

Odhers.

ef
aitsh
el
em
en
ar (er)
es
ex

jai
vee

In naming dhe digraphs, az will be seen presently, I propose to be guided by dhese analogies ; dhus :—

whee	—
dhee	eth
zhai	esh
—	etsh (English ch)
—	eng

Dhe consonants for which I venture to propose double or alternativ alphabetic names ar dhese five,—c, g, r, w, y ; and I propose to name dhem in dhe manner suggested in dhe *Note* at dhe commencement ov dhis paper (*ante*, p. 2).

Az each vowel letter has a recognized long (or diphthongal) and also a recognized short sound, it should, I think, receiv two names accordingly. Dhe names suggested will be found in dhe table below.

Dhe naming ov dhe digraphs involvs a more difficult question ; but it seems advisable to name dhem ; and dhis may be done by first stating dhe individual letters and dhen dheir combined value ; dhus—“ tee, aitsh, eth.” Az *ch* has three recognized powers, it demands three distinct names, so long az dhose powers remain. It iz, indeed, more correct to say dhat dhere ar three separate digraphs,—separate in origin, in history, and in value,—which hav one common form, *ch*. Dhe suggested mode ov naming dhe severall digraphs iz set forth in dhe table givven below.

Dhe general result ov dhe proposals put foreward in dhe foregoing remarks may now be exhibited, az follows :—(*See next two pages*).

¹ Dhis iz usually considered to be “short oa,” but it seems to me to be “short ur.” If so, dhen dhere iz no distinct sign for dhis vowel sound when long. What appears to me to be dhe long sound corresponding to dhe short vowel in hurry, worry, dun, done, iz associated with various letters, az in fern, fir, fur, work, myrrh. We hav no recognized means ov distinguishing, in spelling, between dhe two varieties ov dhis vowel, which seems to be intermediate in sound between oa and oo, and dhe trew short sound corresponding to long oa does not, perhaps, exist in English. Generally, dhe long and short varieties ov dhe different vowels ar not exact, but merely approximate pairs. A Capital letter will be required ov dhe same shape az u.

² Az in *full*, *wool*. Dhis letter iz proposed for adoption ; e. g. ful, wul.

DHE ALPHABETIC SYSTEM.

I.—DHE ALPHABET OV SINGLE LETTERS:—

NUMBER.	LETTER.		NAME.
1	A	a	ai long, and short aa
2	B	b	bee
3	C	c	kee, when guttural
	C	c	see, when sibilant
4	D	d	dee
5	E	e	ee long, and short ai
6	F	f	ef
7	G	g	gai, when guttural
	G	g	jee, when sibilant
8	H	h	aitsh
9	I	i	i diphthongal, and short ee
10	J	j	jai
11	K	k	kai
12	L	l	el
13	M	m	em
14	N	n	en
15	O	o	oa long, and short au
16	P	p	pee
17	Q	q	kew
18	R	r	ree, when trilled
	R	r	ar, when "soft" or untrilled
19	S	s	es
20	T	t	tee
21	.	u	u diphthongal, and short oa ¹
22	U	u	short oo ²
23	V	v	vee
24	W	w	double u, when a vowel
	W	w	wee, when a consonant
25	X	x	eks
26	Y	y	wi, when a vowel
	Y	y	yai, when a consonant
27	Z	z	zed

¹ See note 1, preceeding page.² See note 2, preceeding page.

DHE ALPHABETIC SYSTEM.

II.—DHE AUXILIARY ALPHABET OV DIGRAPHS:--

NUMBER.	DIGRAPH.		NAME.	PRON., as in
28 (Latin)	Ch	ch	kee, aitsh, ek	chemist
29 (French)	Ch	ch	see, aitsh, shee	chaise
30 (Engl.)	Ch	ch	see, aitsh, etsh	church
31	Dh	<i>dh</i> ³	dee, aitsh, dhee	then (<i>dhen</i>)
32	Gh	gh	gai, aitsh, eg	ghost
33	Kh	kh	kai, aitsh, ak	khan
34	Ph	ph	pee, aitsh, fee	phase
35	Rh	rh	ree, aitsh, rai	rhythm
36	Sh	sh	es, aitsh, esh	shine
37	Th	th	tee, aitsh, eth	thin
38	Wh	wh	wee, aitsh, whee	when
39	Zh	<i>zh</i> ³	zed, aitsh, zhai	azure (<i>azhure</i>)

40 Ng ng en, gai, eng long

41 Ee ee double e, ee long feel
 42 Ai ai (ay) ai, i (y), ai long⁴ fail, fray
 43 Aa aa double a, aa long bazaar
 44 Au au (aw) ai, u (w), au long fault, flaw
 45 Oa oa oa, ai, oa long foal
 46 Oo oo double o, oo long fool

47 Oi oi (oy) oi diphthong foil, boy
 48 Ou ou (ow) ou diphthong foul, fowl
 49 Ei ei (ey) ei diphthong eye, eider-down
 50 Eu eu (ew) eu diphthong ewe, eulogy

³ Dhe digraphs *dh* and *zh* ar new, being now proposed for adoption. All dhe other consonant digraphs ar in current use; but six ov dhem ar redundant, being employed in our actual orthography for etymological reasons only, viz. :—

(Latin) ch = k.
 (French) ch = sh
 gh = g (guttural)
 kh = k
 ph = f
 rh = r

⁴ Dhe sound ov *ai* in 'fair' differs from dhat in 'fail,' but dhe difference iz perhaps due to dhe influence ov dhe following *r*. Az to dhe vowel in 'fur,' see note 1 on dhe opposit page. Dhe series ov vowel sounds, long and short, may perhaps be taken to be, in English, az follows :—

feel, fin, fail, fen, fair, fan, far; fall, fond, foal, fund, furl, full, fool.

III.—THE DIGRAPHIC SYSTEM.

In the Resolutions quoted above, which were submitted to the Committee of the Council, the earlier paragraphs set forth a series of facts which are of great importance in the consideration of this subject. They show that the defects of the English alphabet (which, as regards the letters, though not as regards their sounds, is simply the Latin alphabet, with *w* added) have been felt, and recognized, and to a certain extent remedied; and they show further that the remedy has been applied in a particular form, namely, the adoption of a system of "digraphs," supplementary and ancillary to the defective alphabet of single letters. A very strong disinclination to introduce new letters has evidently prevailed; and these curious "digraphs," or special combinations of old letters with new powers, have been resorted to, manifestly with a view to avoid the adoption of new letters. It is somewhat difficult to understand why the simple and apparently natural expedient of devising a new letter for a new sound should be so much dreaded and so persistently avoided; but the history of our literature shows that since the invention of printing this feeling has been paramount, and it would therefore seem to be useless and hopeless to attempt to resist it or to act in opposition to it. After the invention of printing, the new letters which had been added to the Latin Alphabet and used in Anglo-Saxon and Early English manuscripts were rejected; the runic "thorn," þ, for example, which was used by Caxton and other early printers concurrently with the digraph "th," was first replaced by the roman *y*, as in *y^e*, *y^t*, but this clumsy contrivance was soon discarded, and though it still lingers in manuscript, especially among clergymen, it is now never met with in printing, except in the pages of *Punch*, or similar humorous works, where it sometimes appears as a jocular reproduction of the past. It may seem, at first sight, that *w* is an exception to the rule, but it is not so in fact, for *w* is really a digraph, composed of two letters, *vv*, which were at first printed separate and apart, but afterwards came to be so combined as to present the appearance of a single

letter. Its alphabetic name, "double u," still preserves the record of its digraphic origin.

I do not myself share in this feeling of aversion to new letters; but I am convinced of its existence, and indeed of its general prevalence; and I do not see that any advantage would be gained by running counter to it. And in this respect the revival of an old letter is practically the same as the introduction of a new one. To the present generation of Englishmen, the Anglo-Saxon θ would be just as strange as if it were now invented for the first time. It is on this ground, and on this ground only, that I advocate the adoption of the digraphs *dh* and *zh*, to denote the two consonantal sounds which have at present no distinct representatives in our alphabetical system. These digraphs involve no new letter; there is nothing more than a simple substitution of *d* for *t*, and *z* for *s*; and the resulting combinations are in strict analogy with the rest of the series of *h*-digraphs. Without entering into an elaborate investigation of the nature of these sounds or the mode of their production, it will suffice to observe that as *th* is to *t*, so is *dh* to *d*; and as *sh* is to *s*, so is *zh* to *z*.

That some character to denote the *flat* sound of *th* in *thine* is urgently needed in our language, is a point which it is easy to prove. Each consonant is susceptible of two modes of utterance,—first, its plain or primary sound, and secondly, a certain modification which is usually termed the "aspirated," but which Mr. Melville Bell, at least in some cases, calls the "divided" sound. We have no difficulty in appreciating the phonetic difference between them, though it may not always be easy to explain physiologically the cause of that difference. Now, it is a fact deserving especial notice, that the plain or primary sound of every consonant in our English speech is denoted by a Single Letter, with the sole exception of the naso-guttural liquid, for which we use the digraph "ng," as in *long*; whilst, on the other hand, there is considerable confusion in the representation of the "aspirated" or "divided" sounds,—some being denoted by single letters, some by digraphs, and some by both concurrently. Before

dhe introduction ov printing, dhe confusion waz apparently much less; for each ov the "Aspirates" corresponding to dhe six Mutes had its own separate letter, dthough *h*-digraphs were also ized, and certainly dhe separate letters were not always consistently employed:—

		<i>Mutes.</i> (LETTERS.)		<i>Corresponding "Aspirates."</i> (LETTERS.) (DIGRAPHS.)	
flat	{	labial	b	v	-
		guttural	g	ʒ	gh
		dental	d	ʒ	-
sharp	{	labial	p	f	ph
		guttural	{ c k q }	h	ch
		dental	t	þ	th

Dhe original sounds ov dhe two guttural aspirates (flat and sharp), denoted by dhe digraphs *gh* and *ch*, hav long since been entirely lost in our actual pronunciation; yet we retain dhese digraphs in spelling, while we hav left dhe flat aspirate ov dhe dental series widhout any character whatever to represent it. If *dh* be adopted, dhe sounds now referred to and dheir actual representatives would be az follows:—

	<i>Labial.</i>		<i>Guttural.</i>	<i>Dental.</i>	
flat	b	v	g	d	dh
sharp	p	f	c	t	th
			k		
			q		

For dhe Labial Aspirates, single letters—v, f; for dhe Dental Aspirates, digraphs—dh, th; but for the Guttural Aspirates, which no longer exist, no characters at all.

Dhe Sibilants constitute a series distinct from dhe Mutes, and among odher peculiarities, dhey combine reddily widh dhe Dental Mutes so az to form what seem to be a kind ov consonantal diphthongs:—

		<i>Sibilants.</i>	<i>Corresponding "Aspirates."</i>
flat	{	simple z	zh [French j]
		compound dz [Italian z]	dzh [English j]
sharp	{	simple s	sh [French ch]
		compound ts [German z]	tsh [English ch]

We hav in fact no less dhan three distinct digraphs composed ov dhe same letters, *ch*, viz. :

Latin *ch* = k, az in character = karacter.

French *ch* = sh, az in chaise = shaise.

English *ch* = tsh, az in church = tshurtsh.

Dhe digraph *sh* has superseded an erlier trigraph *sch* ; az in *bishop*, formerly spelt *bischop* ; and dhis waz no dout owing to dhe analogy ov dhe odher *h*-digraphs. Guided by dhe same analogy, we may extend dhe list by adopting *zh*, to denote dhe sound ov dhe French *j*, which stands in dhe same relation towards dhe English *j* az dhe French *ch* does towards dhe English *ch*.

It appears to me dhat dhe digraphs which we hav actually adopted, and which we employ in our actual spelling, ought to be recognized az being what dhey really ar,—part and parcel ov our alphabetic system. Dhey ar not accidental or casual combinations, such az we find in dhe word *beauty*, where dhe three letters *eau* ar not employed to denote a particular sound, but hav merely received a particular pronunciation. In such a word, dhe spelling iz independent ov dhe pronunciation : dhe spelling iz borrowed, but dhe pronunciation iz our own. In such a word az *thin*, dhis iz not dhe case ; dhe spelling iz our own, quite az much az dhe pronunciation. When we want to express in any new word dhe sound or sounds herd in dhe name ov dhe letter *u*, we do not write *eau* ; but when we want to express in any new word dhe sound ov dhe initial consonant in *thin*, we do write *th*, which iz, in fact, dhe only character we now possess, dhat iz available for dhe purpose. Dhere appears to me to be a wide and marked distinction between a combination ov letters intentionally ized to represent a particular sound, and a combination ov letters occurring casually in a word, which happens to hav received a particular pronunciation. Dhe *h*-digraphs hav been formed upon a definit principle, and according to a specific analogy ; whedher rightly or wrongly, iz a different question ; it iz clear dhat dhey ar not accidental combinations, but intentional,—and dhat dhey ar *designed*, just az much az dhe single letters, to *represent* par-

ticular sounds. Dhe trew sound ov *h* does not enter into any one ov dhem; but dhere iz in all ov dhem a modification ov dhe breadhing, or escape ov dhe breth, for which dhe letter *h* may be considered to stand az dhe symbol. At all events, whatevver may hav been dheir origin, dhey ar now in fact adopted az dhe signs ov certain sounds; and taken togedher, dhey constitute a remarkable series ov phonetic characters, which serv precisely dhe same purpose az single letters. *Gulph* spelt with *ph* iz not a different word from *gulf* spelt with *f*; it iz dhe same word, and dhe digraph and dhe single letter perform precisely dhe same functions.

In carrying out dhis view, anodher and verry difficult question arises. If we regard dhe digraphs az forming an Auxiliary Alphabet, what ar dhe digraphs which should be admitted into dhe list? Which ar entitled to be enrolled az members ov dhis auxiliary force? Dhis iz really a verry difficult practical question, owing to dhe various and even perverse uses to which som ov dhe digraphs hav been put.

Dhe obvious answer iz, dhat all ov dhem ought to be included; but dhe difficulty springs from dhe fact dhat, on closer examination, we find dhat, taken in connexion with dhe Single Letters and with one anodher, som ov dhem ar "equivalent," and som "ambiguous." By "equivalent" characters, I mean dhose dhat ar ov *equal* value; and by "ambiguous" characters, I mean dhose dhat ar ov *doubtful* value. "Equivalent" characters ar different symbols employed to denote dhe same sound; an "ambiguous" character iz one symbol employed to denote different sounds. It iz extremely important to bear dhis distinction in mind. Dhere iz no "ambiguity" in "equivalent" characters. Dhus, *rh* iz an "equivalent" ov *r*; and hence, whenever we meet with *rh*, we know dhat it iz to be pronounced like *r*. Dhere iz no uncertainty about it. On dhe odher hand, *ch* has three different values; and, dherefor, when we meet with *ch*, we do not know how it iz to be pronounced. It iz necessary to learn its actual pronunciation in each individual word.

It will be convenient to consider dhe Consonants first; and afterwards dhe Vowels.

The English system (which iz not co-extensiv widh dhe natural system) ov Consonant-sounds, az represented by Letters and Digraphs, iz shown in dhe following list, which also indicates dhe deficiencies. It comprises (in dhe first column) dhe Mutes and Sibilants, sharp and flat, widh dhe Liquids, oral and nasal; and (in dhe second column) dhe corresponding Aspirates, or “divided” sounds.

MUTES, SIBILANTS, AND LIQUIDS.				CORRESPONDING "ASPIRATES."		
<i>Labial.</i>						
mute	{ sharp	pee	P p	F f	ef	
	{ flat	bee	B b	V v	vee	
liquid	{ oral	wee	W w	Wh wh	whee	
	{ nasal	em	M m	. .	.	
<i>Dental.</i>						
mute	{ sharp	tee	T t	Th th	eth	
	{ flat	dee	D d	Dh dh	dhee	
liquid	{ oral	el	L l	. .	.	
	{ nasal	en	N n	. .	.	
<i>Palatal.</i>						
sibilant	{ sharp	es	S s	Sh sh	esh	
	{ flat	zed	Z z	Zh zh	zhai	
liquid	{ oral	ar or ree	R r	. .	.	
	{ nasal	
compound	{ sharp	.	[ts](English)	Ch ch	etsh ¹	
	{ flat	.	[dz](English)	J j	dzhai ¹	
<i>Guttural.</i>						
mute	{ sharp	kai	K k	H h	aitsh ²	
	{ flat	gai	G g	. .	.	
liquid	{ oral	yai	Y y	. .	.	
	{ nasal	eng	Ng ng	. .	.	

The foregoing list contains, I believ, a complete collection ov dhe English consonant-sounds, but it does not contain a complete collection ov dhe characters by which dhose sounds ar represented. Az we hav already seen, dhere ar many

¹ Although dhese two aspirates belong phonetically to dhe palatal or sibilant series, dhey ar connected etymologically widh dhe guttural series. Hence, dhe characters by which dhey ar denoted,—ch, j.

² Dhis letter (h), which seems to hav denoted originally a much stronger breadhing, now represents dhe lightest form ov dhe guttural aspirate.

additional letters and digraphs which are employed, under certain circumstances, to denote the same sounds. Subjoined is a list of some

"EQUIVALENT" CHARACTERS.

Consonants.

NUMBER. ¹	NAME. ²	CHARACTER. ³	VALUE.
3	kee	c	} = k
11	kai	k	
17	kew	q	
28	ek	(Latin) ch	
33	ak	kh	
3	see	c	} = s
19	es	sharp s	
6	ef	f	} = f
34	fee	ph	
7	gai	g	} = (guttural)
32	eg	gh	
7	jee	g	} = j
10	jai	j	
18	ar, or ree	r	} = r
35	rai	rh	
19	es	(flat) s	} = z
27	zed	z	
29	shee	(French) ch	} = sh
36	esh	sh	

¹ For these numbers, see "The Alphabetic System," *ante*, pages 12 and 13.

² As each digraph denotes a single sound, it may conveniently receive a single name; which, by a slight variation, may readily be made to mark the distinction between the digraph and the "equivalent" single letter; thus, *ef* being the name of the single letter *f*, *fee* may be the name of the digraph *ph*. (See the names of the digraphs already suggested, *ante*, pages 12 and 13).

³ None of these are complete equivalents. They cannot be interchanged indiscriminately. They are only used as equivalents in certain cases and under certain conditions.

qu and *ew* are not *equivalents*, as *ew* is not now in use; but *qu* is the *substitute* for *cw*, as in queen = cween, *Anglo-Saxon* cwên.

x is a compendious *substitute* for *cs*, or (when flat) for *gz*.

So long az dhese equivalentes ar actually uezd in English orthography, and dhus form part ov our written language, dhey necessarily form part also ov our alphabetic system; and dhey cannot be legitimately discarded from dhe alphabet until dhey ar discarded from dhe orthography.

It will be noticed dhat some ov dhem are not merely "equivalent," but "ambiguous;" especially c, g, s, and ch. It does not necessarily follow, howevver, (az many persons seem to suppose) dhat dhese letters ought dherefor to be at once expelled from our orthography and summarily rejected from dhe alphabet. It iz quite possible to improov dhe use ov dhem so az to avoid dheir ambiguity widhout getting rid ov dhem altogether. Dhe mode ov doing dhis iz a question which will be discussed presently, in reference to dhe improovment ov dhe orthography.

Proceeding to dhe vowels, we find dhe confusion so great, dhat it seems almost hopeless to attempt to bring any sort ov cosmos out ov such a chaos. In my proposed resolutions alreddy quoted, I hav made a selection ov vowel-digraphs, in order to establish a normal or standard character for each vowel-sound; but dhere ar odher vowel-digraphs in actual use, which claim to be registered az "equivalent" characters. It iz hardly necessary to say dhat *io* in *opinion*, *ua* in *persuade*, and similar combinations, ar two letters widh two sounds, which do not form a digraph; but it may be important to observ dhat dhe servile *e* does not appear to me to form a digraph in such words az *fee*, *fie*, *foe*, *flue*. In dhese cases it iz simply an index letter, pointing out dhe length or quality ov dhe preceeding vowel, exactly az it does in such a word az *fine* or *fume*. Dhis iz not a refined and useless distinction, but a real and important one, az I think will be seen when we com to discuss dhe difficult question ov dhe final *e*.

Reckoning *y* and *w* for dhe present purpose az simple equivalentes ov *i* and *u*, it iz clear dhat dhe five vowel letters will make twenty-five possible digraphs ($5 \times 5 = 25$). Among dhese, dhe following ar in actual use; and it will be observed dhat dhere iz a verry remarkable difference, widh respect to dhe abundance ov combinations, between dhe three pure

vowels (a, e, o) and dhe two semi-consonantal vowels (i, u) :—

1.	aa	ea	oa	.	.
2.	ae (æ) ¹	ee ¹	oe (œ) ¹	ie ¹	.
3.	ai, ay	ei, ey	oi, oy	.	ui, uy ²
4.	ao	eo	oo	.	.
5.	au, aw	eu, ew	ou, ow	.	.

Almoast evvery one ov dhese digraphs iz “ambiguous” in itself, az well az “equivalent” to som odher. Dhus, *ea* has three recognized values, in *great*, *feat*, *dread* = *grait*, *feet*, *dred*; all three ov which occur, according to our present pronunciation, in dhe well-known couplet in *Hudibras* :—

“Doubtless the pleasure is as *great*
In being cheated as to *cheat*.”

It iz dhese ambiguities which creäte so much difficulty in our vowel spelling; and it will be necessary to examin dhem in a subsequent part ov my paper. At present, I am only concerned with dhe alphabet; in which, besides making a selection ov vowel digraphs, I hav proposed certain chanjes in dhe alphabetic names ov dhe vowel letters. I hav done so, because each ov dhe vowel letters has in practice two values; *i.e.*, a long or diphthongal sound, and a short sound. It would take far too much time to enter, now, into an examination ov dhese in detail; but it iz important to observ dhat, while in Latin dhe same vowel letter denoted boath dhe long and dhe short varieties ov dhe same vowel sound, in English dhe reverse iz dhe fact. It iz one ov dhe moast striking and remarkable differences between dhe two languages. We hav kept dhe vowel letters ov dhe Latin and hav refused to add to dhem a single new one; but we hav entirely altered

¹ By dhese characters I mean dhe trew digraphs, az in *feet*, *field*,—*Caesar*, *oecconomy*; and not dhe index letter in *fee*, *fie*, *foe*. I hav dherefor not included *ue*, which iz nevvver a digraph. Perhaps dhe two compendiums, æ, œ, ar scaircely English, notwithstanding dhe “œcumenical” council; and ae and oe seem nearly obsolete.

² In strictness, perhaps, *ui*, iz merely a casual combination, and not an intentional digraph, *i.e.* not *designed* to denote any particular sound. In *fruit*, dhe *i* represents dhe guttural *c* (kee) in *fructus*. In *build* and *buy*, waz dhe *u* ever pronounced? and if so, how? On *etymological* grounds it ought to be rejected: to bield, to by.

A similar remark, az to dheir being casual combinations raadher dhan intentional digraphs, will apply to som ov dhe combinations even with a, with e, and with o.

dhe use ov dhem, and dhe general result iz, dhat in no one instance do dhe long and short sounds denoted by dhe same vowel letter correspond, but in evvery instance, widhout exception, dhe recognized short sound differs in quality from dhe recognized long or diphthongal sound ov dhe same vowel letter, dhus:—

SHORT.			LONG.		
a	as in	fan	a	as in	fane
e		fen	e		fee
i		fin	i		fine
o		fond	o		foe
u		fun	u		fume

It iz mainly for dhis reason dhat it seems to me to be desirable to name dhe vowel letters in such a manner az to mark dhe different qualities ov dheir recognized sounds. It would of course be verry much better dhat each letter should denote only one sound, and no more; but so long az each letter does in fact possess two recognized values, dhat fact ought to be noted, and dhose values recorded, in its alphabetic name. An examination ov dhe alphabetic names which I hav suggested for dhe several vowel letters will show dhe orthographic values which appear to me to belong to dhem. Dhes may be open to discussion in detail; but dhe general fact, dhat (in English) dhe long and dhe short sounds ov each vowel letter do really differ in quality, cannot be denied, and dhe practical question dherefor iz, whedher it would not be a great advantaje to exhibit dhis fact clearly and correctly in dhe alphabetic names ov dhe letters.

IV.—DHE IMPROOVMENT OV DHE ORTHOGRAPHY.

In proceeding to dhis branch ov dhe subject, I find dhe mass ov detail almoast overwhelming. Still, it iz not impossible to grapple widh it in a general way. I do not propose at present to examin, one by one, dhe hundred thousand words in our latest dictionaries, and revise dhe spelling ov each; but I propose to consider briefly dhe general principles by which any action in dhis matter should be guided.

And here let me say dhat, in printing dhis paper, I hav not introduced all dhe chanjes which I think it will be desirable eventually to make; on dhe contrary, I hav confined my alterations to dhose few chanjes which I would propose for immediate adoption, leaving dhe others to await dhe issue ov dhat discussion which under present circumstances may be expected to arise. Dhis incompleteness may perhaps giv an appearance ov occasional inconsistency; som persons may think dhat I hav gone too far, odhers, dhat I hav not gone far enuff; but I must refer, in explanation, to dhe remarks below, in “§ VII. Suggested Alterations.”

Dhere ar two classes ov words in our language, which stand, historically and in fact, upon different footings, and which accordingly appear to me to require different treatment. In dhose words which form dhe main stream ov dhe spoken language, dhere has certainly been an endevvor, more or less successful, to spell phonetically, *i.e.*, to represent dhe pronunciation; but widh regard to words imported into dhe language *through dhe medium ov literature* in comparativly recent times, dhe desire has been to spell (az it iz termed) “etymologically,” *i.e.*, to preserv az much az possible dhe written form ov dhe original word, so az to appeal to dhe ey raadher dhan dhe ear. Dhese words, in fact, so far as dhe English language iz concerned, ar spelt before dhey ar spoken; dhey ar borrowed *in a written form* from odher languages, livving or ded, and ar pronounced afterwards. Dhey consist ov words taken directly from Latin, or from Greek in dhe Latin orthography, or else formed analogically widh Latin or Greek materials; and also ov words borrowed from odher languages written

with dhe Latin alphabet. It is obvious dhat words borrowed from languages which ar not written with dhe Latin alphabet do not belong to dhis class. Words, for instance, from dhe Persian, Arabic, Hindoo, Chinese, Japanese, African, Polynesian and odher languages, eidher written according to systems ov dheir own or not written at all, must, when imported into English, be spelt in our own way. Dhey ar generally spelt phonetically, with more or less success. But words taken from languages written with dhe Latin alphabet, which we uze ourselves, ar alreddy written in a character which we understand, and ar accordingly imported in dhat form. Words from dhe Hebrew ov Scripture, which iz a ded language, ar in som degree exceptional; especially az we hav not merely dhe Hebrew itself to guide us, but also dhe corresponding or transliterated forms in Greek or Latin, to guide or mislead us az dhe case may be.

It appears to me, dhen, dhat Latin words and Latin-spelt Greek words (all our Greek words being spelt in dhe Latin orthography), which hav com to us through literature, and not through speech, stand upon a footing ov dheir own. So far az dhe English language iz concerned, dhey ar not, and were nevver intended to be, spelt phonetically. Dhey com to us reddy spelt; and dhe question with regard to each word dherefor iz, not how it shall be spelt, but simply how it shall be spoken. Dhe spelling iz not required to fit dhe pronunciation, but dhe pronunciation iz required to fit dhe spelling. Speaking generally, I see no ground for altering dhe orthography ov these words, dhough in particular instances it may need revision with a vew to making it more correct etymologically. What iz wanted with respect to these words iz, dhat dhey should be *pronounced* consistently, so az treuly to harmonize with dhe orthography. It iz dhe pronunciation, and not dhe spelling, dhat requires correction. Where, howevver, dhe pronunciation ov a particular word iz thoroughly established, and has permanently deviated from dhe orthography, it iz a question whedher it would not be best to alter dhe spelling in dhat particular case, so az to adapt it to dhe pronunciation. Dhus, *sceptic* iz dhe only word in dhe

language in which *c* iz guttural (or hard) before *e*. If dhis exceptional pronunciation iz permanently fixed (az it seems to be), it would certainly be convenient to spell dhe word *skeptic* (widh *k* in sted ov *c*), not on dhe ground dhat *k* occurs in dhe Greek (for we do not follow dhe Greek spelling), but distinctly on dhe ground dhat *k* iz dhe only letter which, according to dhe rules ov English orthography, will denote dhe exceptional pronunciation.

Dhis remarkable stratum ov Latin and Greek words, which has been deposited entirely through a literary medium, lies upon dhe main boddy ov dhe language like a layer ov gravvel on a bed ov chalk. Beyond dhis, dhere ar dhe forein words which we hav imported from modern French, Italian, Spanish, and odher languages written widh dhe Latin alphabet. Dhes ar generally spelt at first according to dheir orthography in dhe language from which dhey ar taken, but afterwards, az dhey becom more completely naturalized, dhey gradually acquire an English dress. It iz a question ov time in each case; dhus, we hav altered *risque* into *risk*, but we hav not yet altered *burlesque* into *burlesk*. So, likewise, *troupe* has becom *troop*, but *groupe* and *soupe*, dthough dhey hav lost dhe final *e*, hav not yet chanjed *ou* into *oo*. Dhis class ov words seems to me to differ essentially from dhe Greek and Latin words. Dhey com to us from livving languages, and quite az often through conversation az through literature; we merely spell dhem in conformity widh dheir original orthography, because dhey ar written widh dhe same alphabet which we ourselvs employ; and az dhey becom assimilated to dhe rest ov dhe language, dhey gradually com to be spelt in an English way. Would it not be advisable to hasten dhis process, and to giv such words an English orthography az speedily az possible? It does not follow dhat dheir pronunciation will undergo any chanje. Dhe pronunciation ov *troop* does not differ from dhat ov *troupe*.

Omitting dhe literary Latin and Greek words, which stand, az I hav said, on a footing ov dheir own, dhe *principle* ov phonetic spelling pervades all dhe rest ov dhe language,

though the *practice* appears verry often to be at variance with it. Here perhaps I should explain dhat literary Latin and Greek words do not include dhose words which came into English from Norman French or Old French, havving been formed under colloquial and not under literary influences. Dhus, *blame* iz dhe same word az *blaspheme*; but *blame* iz dhe popular, colloquial, contracted form, while *blaspheme* iz dhe ecclesiastical, literary, complete form. When dhe middle vowel in Latin *blasphemare* waz dropped, dhe *ph*, being in dhat position almoast unpronounceable, would be dropped also, leaving az a residuum dhe Old French *blasmer*; dthough in som dialects dhe *ph* became *t*, *blastemar*, reduced to *blastmar*, *blasmar*. Dhe *s* waz afterwards lost before dhe following consonant, in accordance with dhe general practice ov dhe French language; dhe series ov contractions being az follows: *blasphemare*, *blasphmer*, *blasmer*, *blâmer*. Dthese chanjes did not take place in English; dhey took place in French; and dhe word came over into English in its last staje ov contraction,—*blâmer*, to blame. So far az English iz concerned, dherefor, dhe word iz not Latin or Greek, but French,—and not literary but colloquial French. Since its adoption into English it has undergone a furdher chanje in its pronunciation, dthough none in its orthography. Dhe vowel *a* has shifted its sound from *aa* to *ai*, and dhe word (i.e. dhe spoken word) which in Chaucer's day waz *blaamē* or *blaam* iz now *blaim*. Whedher "phonetic" spelling would require dhat it should now be spelt *blaim*, insted ov *blame*, iz a question which must be considered in connexion with dhe general question ov dhe final or servile *e*; I only wish to point out here, dhat "etymological" spelling, confined to literary Greek and Latin words, does not require dhat *blame* should be respelt *blaspheme*, any more dhan it requires *bishop* to be respelt *episcop*, which, after loozing dhe initial vowel and dhus becomming *piscop*, passed through dhe following phonetic and orthographic chanjes,—*biscop*, *bisceop*, *bischop*, *bishop*. Dhe line to be drawn between dhe literary forms and dhe colloquial contractions, iz perfectly clear and distinct, dthough dhere may be som words about which it may be difficult to deter-

min on which side ov dhe line dhey should be placed. It iz essential dhat dhis point should be thoroughly understood,—az to what “etymological” spelling does require, and what it does not. It requires that literary Latin and Greek words should be spelt according to dheir original form in dhe Latin orthography; but it does not require dhat colloquial contractions ov such words, whedher arising in Anglo-Saxon, French, or English, should be spelt odherwise dhan phonetically.

Dhere iz, howevver, anodher kind ov “etymological” spelling, which calls for distinct consideration. Etymology has two aspects, according az it regards, on dhe one hand, dhe original form ov a word, or, on dhe odher, dhe chanjes it undergoes. Retrospectiv etymology looks backward to dhe original form; prospectiv etymology looks foreward to its subsequent history, and traces its successiv modifications. Dhe “etymological” spelling which follows dhese successiv chanjes iz necessarily, so far az it goes, co-incident widh phonetic spelling. It records what dhe chanjes ought to be, widhout taking heed ov slurred or slovvenly pronunciation; or raadher, it records what dhe chanjes really ar, under a full, emphatic and proper pronunciation. Dhus, dhe article *an* loozes its *n* before a consonant, and dhis loss iz duly noted in dhe spelling; but it iz quite unnecessary to note dhe various shades ov obscuration which dhe residuary vowel, *a*, receivs from different persons in dhe hurried utterance ov daily life. When fully and emphatically uttered it iz *a*, and nothing else; and dhis accords widh dhe spelling. For practical purposes, dhis iz all dhat iz needed; dhough, ov course, a more minute discrimination may be requisit for dhe scientific investigation ov linguistic phenomena.

Az a general rule, retrospectiv or historical etymology, which looks to dhe original forms, deals widh words dhat ar borrowed from dhe fixed literature of ded languages; whilst prospectiv or grammatical etymology, which looks to dhe chanjes dhat words undergo, deals widh dhe phenomena dhat occur widhin dhe limits ov dhe livving English language itself. When we hav got hold ov a word from abroad or

outside, and hav naturalized it, we treat it az a nativ; and dhe chanjes to which it iz dhen subjected demand to be registered not merely on phonetic but on etymological grounds. We distinguish, for example, between dhe nouns and dhe verbs in certain classes ov words by dhe diversity ov dhe sharp and flat varieties ov dhe same consonant; and wherevver dhis distinction iz made in speech, it ought also to be marked in spelling. It iz not merely a matter ov orthoëpy, but a point ov grammatical etymology. Dhe phonetic chanje iz not merely euphonic, but significant. It accompanies and indicates a chanje ov sense; and dherefor claims to be recorded not simply for dhe sake ov dhe pronunciation, but especially for dhe sake ov dhe meaning. But in dhis respect, az in so many odhers, our actual orthography iz extremely inconsistent. Dhus, we distinguish in spelling, az well az in speech, between *glass* and *to glaze*, *advice* and *to advise*; but we do not distinguish in spelling, dthough we do distinguish in speech, between *house* and *to house*, *use* and *to use*. If we were to write dhese words according to "analogic spelling," we might spell dhem dhus—*houss* and *to houze*, *uce* and *to use*. Dhe best mode ov writing dhem, I shall discuss presently; and I will only say at present, dhat grammatical etymology certainly requires dhat dhe difference in question should, at all events in some mode or odher, be marked in dhe orthography. I do not think dhat grammatical etymology conflicts in dhis respect widh historical etymology, because, az it seems to me, dhe sphere ov each iz quite distinct from dhe odher. Historical etymology desires dhe retention ov dhe original form ov dhe word; grammatical etymology demands dhe registration ov its significant variations. It iz quite practicable to satisfy boath, if due attention iz paid to dhe proper limits ov each. Dhus, it cannot be too strongly insisted on, dhat *advice*, az distinguished from *advise*, iz not a Latin, nor even a French, but a purely English word. Here iz a chanje ov pronunciation *for a purpose*; and it appears to me dhat dhe spelling which records dhat chanje iz az treuly etymological az it iz phonetic.

Whatevver vew we may take widh regard to dhe bearing

ov historical etymology on orthography, it appears to be clearly desirable dhat dhe demands ov grammatical etymology should be complied widh. I dherefor venture to propose dhat to dhis extent "etymological" spelling (which iz so far co-incident widh phonetic spelling) should at once be not only adopted az a principle, but carried out in practice consistently and completely. Dhe details must be discussed hereafter; but az an illustration ov my meaning, I would suggest dhat dhe verb *to houze* should be spelt widh *z* in sted ov *s*. If it should be decided dhat henceforth dhe final *e* iz to be discarded wherevver it iz useless, then *houz* would be dhe form; but dhe decision to be com to on dhat point iz a distinct question. Hence—

NOWN.

VERB.

house

to houze

or, if dhe final *e* be rejected—

hous

to hous

The difference between *to house* and *to hous* iz no doubt considerable to dhe ey, and iz perhaps at first a little startling; but if it recommends itself to dhe judgment, az dhe consistent application ov a principle, it would soon becom familiar in practice.

V.—PHONETIC SPELLING.

If the view which I have taken be correct, there are, with regard to orthography, two classes of words in our language, viz., those in which the spelling is governed, and rightly governed, by historical etymology; and those in which the spelling is based on the phonetic principle, although that principle may be carried out in a clumsy, inconsistent and unsatisfactory manner. This latter class practically includes those words which are affected by the changes of grammatical etymology.

What then is phonetic spelling? More than 120 years ago, Dr. Johnson, in his "Plan of an English Dictionary," observed—"The great orthographical contest has long subsisted between etymology and pronunciation. It has been demanded, on one hand, that men should write as they speak; but * * * it may be asked with equal propriety, why men do not rather speak as they write." This question undoubtedly bears the stamp of Johnson's strong common sense; nevertheless, it does not exhaust the subject. If we were really to do both these things, or either of them,—to write as we speak, or to speak as we write,—our spelling would be equally phonetic; for whether the spelling is such as to represent the pronunciation, or the pronunciation is such as to harmonize with the spelling, the effect is practically the same. The two are brought into conformity; and that is all that is required.

But the truth is, that Johnson's question overlooks the important fact that, except as regards those words which have come to us through literature, the spelling is necessarily phonetic, i.e. *intended* to represent the pronunciation,—whether it does so effectually or not. We may "speak as we write" with regard to words that are written; but how can we do so with regard to unwritten words? When words hitherto unwritten are written for the first time, the question necessarily arises,—how shall they be spelt? The answer of course will be, that they should be spelt so as to represent the pronunciation,—so as to make the written form

correspond with the spoken form ; and in that case men do at least attempt to "write as they speak." With respect to such words it is altogether irrelevant to ask men to "speak as they write."

The words which have thus been phonetically spelt, i.e. written originally with the *intention* of representing the pronunciation, form the great bulk of what is really our modern-tongue. But the intention has been more or less defeated by several causes ; as, for instance, first, that our means of representing the pronunciation are, and always have been, inadequate ; secondly, that the different systems of orthography, such as Anglo-Saxon, Latin, French, and Modern English, which have prevailed at different periods and in different branches of the language, have clashed with each other and produced inconsistency and confusion ; thirdly, that where a change takes place in the pronunciation without any corresponding change in the spelling of a word, a discrepancy arises, so that the spelling, which may once have faithfully represented the pronunciation, no longer does so.

Our language has been a written language for more than a thousand years, and to remove the evils which have been the growth of so many centuries is a task which would seem to be indeed herculean. The first step, however, is to understand what these evils really are ; and the next, to consider in what way they may be remedied. The practical adoption of the suggested remedies is, of course, a different matter.

It appears to me that an attempt may at least be made to bring our two languages,—our spoken language and our written language,—into harmony with each other, by observing certain conditions, among which the principal are these :—

The retention of "equivalent" characters, wherever their value is not "ambiguous ;"

The rejection or modification of "ambiguous" characters, wherever the ambiguity cannot be removed by "rules of position ;"

The retention of etymological "silent letters," if their silence may be known or determined by "rules of position ;"

And laastly, dhe consistent appplication ov dhose orthographical contrivances, which exist in our actual spelling, and which require to be regulated, modified, or corrected, raadher dhan discarded. Among dhe chief ov dhese contrivances may be reckoned dhe use ov dhe servile *e* and ov dhe servile *u*; dhe practice ov doubling dhe consonants; and dhe employment ov dhe letters *y* and *w* az ornamental finals in sted ov *i* and *u*.

If we can lay down a rule to determin dhe pronunciation ov different words with dhe same spelling, dhere iz no necessity to alter dhe spelling in order to render it phonetic; for it becoms phonetic by dhe operation ov dhe rule. Dhus, if dhe rule be universal, dhat dhe prefix *ex* always becoms flat (*egz*) before an accented syllable beginning with a vowel or silent *h*, but in all odher circumstances remains sharp, no chanje in dhe spelling iz required to inform us ov dhe pronunciation; and under dhe influence ov dhat rule *exámple* and *exhíbit* (pron. *egzámpel* and *egzíbit*) ar just az much phonetically spelt az *excél*, *expél*, *extól*, or *éxercise*.

And I wish to dwell upon dhis az an extremely important principle. Where dhe actual pronunciation ov a word (whedher supposed to be spelt etymologically or odherwise) can be pointed out by a definit rule, dhe orthography iz really phonetic, being rendered so by dhe rule, which givs to dhe letters in dhat particular position a certain pronunciation, and no odher. In such cases, dherefor, it iz unnecessary to introduce any chanje in dhe spelling; and it iz, ov course, extremely desirable to introduce az few chanjes az possible. A verry large proportion ov Latin words, and ov Greek words in dheir Latin orthography, appear to fall within dhe scope ov dhis principle; and hence, in dhose words, dhe etymological and dhe phonetic spelling really co-incide, or may at least be reconciled by means ov certain rules, which may be termed "Rules ov Position."

If, for instance, it be a phonetic law ov dhe language, dhat a mute (whedher flat or sharp) iz never pronounced before a nasal liquid in dhe same syllable, dhen, if we know dhat law, we not only see why *g* iz silent in words like *phlegm* and *sign*

(dthough pronounced in *phlegmatic* and *signal*, where dhe sounds ar syllabically severed), but dhe presence ov dhe *g* in spelling dhose words will not disturb our pronunciation, because its silence iz secured by dhe “rule ov position” just noticed.

And dhis brings me to dhe question ov “equivalent characters,” which involvs considerations similar to dhose affecting “silent letters.” It iz, indeed, on dhese two points dhat dhe zeal ov our phonetic reformers appears to me to hav carried dhem away. A silent letter, if it iz known to be silent, does not interfere widh dhe law which would require dhe spelling to represent dhe pronunciation; and, on dhe odher hand, two different modes, or even half a dozen different modes ov denoting dhe same sound may be equally effectiv, and would, if adopted, be equally phonetic. Dhe digraph *ph* iz just az much a phonetic sign az dhe digraph *th*; and it does not cease to be a phonetic sign merely because dhe same sound iz also denoted by dhe single letter *f*.

On dhe odher hand, where dhe same letter, or dhe same digraph, has different values in different situations, it becoms “ambiguous,” unless its precise value in any givven situation can be determined by a “rule ov position.” Dhis may sometimes be done, but not always. Dhus, it may be laid down (and taught) az a universal rule, dhat *c* iz always sibilant (*see*) before *e* (except in *sceptic* = *skeptic*) and before *i* or its equivalent *y*, and guttural (*kee*) in all odher positions. Dhis rule determins dhe different phonetic values ov *c* so az to remoov all ambiguity; but no similar rule can be laid down widh regard to *g*, or widh regard to dhe digraph *ch*.

I think it may be said dhat “equivalent” characters (*i.e.*, different signs for dhe same sound) ar not inconsistent widh phonetic spelling, which dherefor presents no obstacle to dheir retention for dhe purposes ov etymological spelling; but dhat, on dhe odher hand, an “ambiguous” symbol (*i.e.*, dhe same sign for different sounds) iz not only inconsistent widh phonetic spelling, but does in fact creäte so much confusion, dhat it iz expedient to make almoast any sacrifice ov etymological spelling for dhe sake ov avoiding dhat confusion.

If "equivalent" characters ar to be rejected, dheir rejection will not be required by phonetic spelling, but by considerations ov an entirely different nature, dhat iz to say, by considerations ov practical convenience. It iz mainly a question ov time and trouble in teaching and learning. Dhus, *rh* has in English dhe same phonetic value az *r*, but dhe two cannot be uzed indiscriminately in spelling. Dhey ar equivalent but not interchanjeable; *rh* being confined to a particular class ov words. If a boy sees for dhe first time dhe word "rhetoric" written down, he may know at once how to pronounce it; but if he iz asked to write it down, not havving seen it before, he will probably spell it widhout dhe *h*. Dhis iz dhe trouble, and dhe only trouble in dhe matter. It may or it may not be an important practical question; but it iz wholly independent ov phonetic spelling.

VI.—PROPOSED COURSE OV ACTION.

Dhe anomalies which hav dhus crept, in dhe course ov centuries, into English spelling may, I think, be remooved to a great extent, dthough not perhaps entirely, by dhe adoption ov certain principles or methods ov proceeding, som ov which I hav briefly indicated in dhe present paper. Dthose indications hav necessarily been verry brief, compared widh dhe vaast extent ov dhe question in all its ramified details. Dhat question has now becom dhe object ov lively attention in various quarters, but az dhere iz no Academy in dhis country, nor any odher Literary Tribunal, which can exercise authority in such a matter, I cannot but think dhat dhe most practical step would be, dhat dhose literary or odher Societies to which dhe subject iz interesting or appropriate should take som joint action upon it. Whedher dhe Philological Society should take dhe initiativ, eidher by appointing a Committee ov its own members or by inviting odher Societies to join it in doing so, iz a question which iz almoast forced upon its attention by dhe present state ov dhe agitation elsewhere. Meanwhile, dhe suggestions ov individuals, looking at dhe subject from various points ov vew, may be ov advantaje in dhe general discussion and may assist in dhe final decision.

Suggestion, discussion, decision ; dhis iz dhe natural order ; and dhe final decision, dthough it may be advanced, will not be govverned or controuled by individual theories, but will be mainly determined by dhe tendencies ov dhe national character and dhe influence ov dhe national habits. Dhe conservativ inclinations ov Englishmen will doutless resist all chanje in our orthography, whedher proposed on etymological or on phonetic or on any odher grounds, unless some practical advantaje can be shown ; but if any practical advantaje can be shown, dhen dhe best and moast suitable suggestions will probably be adopted and carried into effect by dhe good sense ov dhe peep²le, notwithstanding dhe dislike ov chanje.

Alldhough dhere iz no Literary Tribunal endowed with authority in such a matter, dhere ar som constituted authorities or recognized boddies in dhe country who might exercise much influence over it. Dhe Committee ov Council on Education, dhe Civil Service Commissioners, dhe Royal College ov Preceptors, and odher examining boddies, eidher at dhe Universities or elsewhere, might be called upon by public opinion to accept, and to pass at all examinations az equally valid, boath forms ov orthography, dhe old and dhe new, widhout deciding between dhem. If, at present, a candidate iz not rejected because he adopts dhe etymological spelling, *expense*, in sted ov dhe phonetic spelling, *expen^cce*, why should he be rejected because he writes, on dhe same grounds, *defense* and *offense*, in sted ov *defence* and *offence* ? or because he thinks dhat dhe *u* may be conveniently omitted in *gard* (guard) az it iz in *regard* ? or dhat dhe verb *to houze* may be properly distinguished from dhe noun *house*, az well az dhe verb *to graze* from dhe noun *grass* ? It iz not contemplated dhat evvery person shall spell just az he likes ; but what iz proposed iz dhis,—dhat dhe alternativ spellings ov individual words, resulting from definit principles understood and recognized and agreed upon, whedher etymological or phonetic, shall be passed by dhe examiners az being equally admissible, equally valid, and in all respects on an equal footing.

It iz quite clear dhat dhere ar two principles, dhe etymo-

logical and dhe phonetic, which hav long struggled for dhe maastery in our spelling. My own opinion iz, az I hav fully explained alreddy, dhat phonetic spelling co-incides necessarily with grammatical etymology, and dhat it may be made to co-incide with historical etymology (at least, to a great extent, if not entirely) by dhe aid ov "rules ov position." Whedher dhis opinion iz correct or not, it iz difficult to see on what ground eidher dhe one or dhe odher ov dhe two principles can claim exclusiv preference. Az a matter ov fact, dhey ar boath in activ operation, and dhe phonetic principle iz dhe older ov dhe two. In dhe English language it iz sanctioned by dhe respectable antiquity ov more dhan a thousand years. On dhe odher hand, dhe etymological principle iz more generally in favor at dhe present time. Let boath hav fair play. Let each operate in its own sphere; and if two different modes ov spelling dhe same word should be dhe result, let boath dhe forms be accepted az ov equal force and worth, az in dhe case ov *expen*ce and *expense*. It iz obvious dhat dhis proposal iz distinct and definit and limited; and iz widely different from dhe admission ov all sorts ov haphazzard and fortuitous spellings, dhe results ov mere ignorance or blundering. Dhe proposal, indeed, follows logically and necessarily from dhe recognition ov dhe existence ov dhe two principles in our orthography; but I do not think dhat it would lead in practice to much actual conflict or collision, because dhe spheres in which dhe two principles legitimately act appear to be essentially distinct.

VII.—SUGGESTED ALTERATIONS.

[NOTE.—In the spelling of the present section I have gone two steps further than in the previous part of the paper :—

1. The flat sound of *s* is invariably spelt with *z*, except, of course, in the literary Greek and Latin words and in words not fully naturalized, and except, also, in the inflexions, which are determined by a “rule of position”: see remarks below, under “*s*.” Probably few persons are at all aware of the extent to which the flat sounds generally, and especially the flat *s* or *z*-sound, prevail in our actual speech.

2. The second *l* is omitted in monosyllables after a *short* vowel, as *wil*, *tel*, *shal*, *dol*, *dul*, *ful*, for *will*, *tell*, *shall*, *doll*, *dull*, *full*. This does not extend to words with *a* pronounced *au*,—as *in fall*,—which, being a *long* vowel, stands on a different footing. The few words of this kind, in which *o* is long, would be better spelt with single *l* and servile *e*; as, *drole* for *droll*.]

There are two objects in view—

1. Alphabetic Reform ;
2. Orthographic Reform.

I have explained my proposals with regard to the first, and my views with regard to the principles on which the second should proceed. It now remains, to apply those principles to the details of actual spelling.

If any enterprising person would re-write Walker’s Dictionary, marking the pronunciation on a truly phonetic system, he would render a great service. I do not propose to do that here: I merely wish now to examine some of the details, not at all exhaustively, but simply by way of illustration.

What I am advocating is “Consistent Spelling;” not uniform spelling, but consistent spelling; so that that half of the language, which is spelt etymologically, may be spelt consistently on the etymological principle; while the other half of the language, which is spelt phonetically, may be spelt consistently on the phonetic principle.

It may be well to give here a list of the flat and sharp sounds, occurring in English. The distinction between flat and sharp is confined to the mutes and sibilants, with their corresponding “aspirates;” and does not extend to the liquids, whether oral or nasal. This list follows the natural order of succession, according to the physical formation of the sounds, proceeding inwards, from the lips to the throat :

<i>Flat.</i> ¹			<i>Sharp.</i> ¹		
bee	B	b	P	p	pee
vee	V	v	F	f	ef
dhee	Dh	dh	Th	th	eth
dee	D	d	T	t	tee
zed	Z	z	S	s	es
zhai	Zh	zh	Sh	sh	esh
dzhai	J	j	Ch	ch	etsh
gai	G	g	K	k	kai

I hav alreddy remarked dhat dhe two sounds ov j (dzhai), and ch (etsh), dthough phonetically related to dhe sibilants, ar connected etymologically widh dhe gutturals (*ante*, p. 19). Dhey hav practically taken dhe places ov dhe trew guttural "aspirates" (gh, kh), which we hav lost. Dhe caracters denoting dhem—dhe single letter j and dhe digraph ch—ar quite anomalous phonetically, dthough dhey may be accounted for historically.

It iz not a matter ov fancy, but ov practical use, to point out dhat dhe distinction between flat and sharp, az regards dhe plain or primary consonants, iz marked in pairs by dhe shape ov dhe letters (whatevver may hav been dheir origin), and especially in dhe capitals :—

<i>Flat.</i>	<i>Sharp.</i>
bee B	P pee
gai G	C kee
dee D	T tee
zed Z	S es

B iz merely P with a second loop; and D iz T with a loop carried round from top to bottom. G iz simply C with a stroke across; while Z iz an angular or pointed S, turned dhe odher way.

¹ I uze dhe words flat and sharp, az well az aspirate and odher similar terms, because dhey ar convenient and commonly employed, and not because I think dhem correct. Our sounds hav been called all sorts ov names; flat and sharp, hard and soft, thick and thin, surd and sonant, voiced and voiceless, spoken and whispered, and many more; but all such descriptions ar necessarily confined to som single point or aspect, and, dherefor, defectiv; and widhout discussing dheze questions ov terminology, it iz sufficient for practical purposes to adopt dhoze terms which ar in current use. Ov all dheze, perhaps 'flat' and 'sharp' ar dhe least scientific and dhe moast handy.

Dhe complete series ov h-digraphs, to denote dhe corresponding ‘aspirates,’ would be :—

Bh	bh	Ph	ph
Gh	gh	Ch	ch (<i>kh</i>)
Dh	dh	Th	th
Zh	zh	Sh	sh
Dzh	dzh (<i>j</i>)	Tsh	tsh (<i>ch</i>)

Dhe conditions under which, in dhe spoken language, dhe flat and sharp sounds interchange, require investigation. In *bishop*, az compared with *’piscop*, dhe sharp mute, initial and accented, has becom flat ; in *gossip*, az compared with *godsib*, dhe flat mute, final and unaccented, has becom sharp. In dheze words, dhe chanje iz shown in dhe spelling, but in many ov our words it iz not.

I propose to consider, in succession—

1. Som ov dhe digraphs, and single letters :
2. Dhe index letters,—servile *u* ; and servile *e* :
3. Dhe question ov silent letters :
4. Vowel spelling.

ph : f

Dhe digraph ph iz dhe equivalent ov dhe single letter f.

Az p iz dhe symbol ov dhe sharp labial mute, so ph iz dhe symbol ov dhe sharp labial “aspirate.” Dhere iz, dherefor, no necessity for discarding it, on phonetic grounds ; but words like shep-herd and up-hold require to be distinguished by a hyphen.

Dhough ph and f ar equivalent, dhey ar not properly interchangeable. Dhe cause ov dhe existence ov ph in English spelling iz etymological. All Greek words adopted into English ar spelt in dhe Latin orthography ; and in dhe Latin orthography ph represents dhe Greek ϕ .

Dhe word *nephew*, howevver, iz an anomaly, and requires to be respelt boath on phonetic and on etymological grounds. It iz a terrible ey-sore, az it stands. It iz neidher literary Latin, nor colloquial French, nor phonetic English.

Latin	nepotem		Old English	{	neveu
Italian	nepote				nevew
French	neveu			Modern English	

Dhe English word, pronounced nevew, iz in fact dhe French neveu, which superseded dhe Anglo-Saxon nefa or neva, in which dhe sound waz flat, dthough in German neffe it iz sharp. We ought to revive dhe old spelling, *nevew*; or, better stil, write *nevew*, but dhis, ov course, depends upon dhe general question az to doubling v.

Many persons who advocate "uniform" spelling think dhat it would be best to abolish ph altogedher, and substitute f in all cases, az we hav alreddy done in som words, such az frenzy = phrensy, contracted from phrenesy, and fancy = phantsy, contracted from phantasy. To do so would be to abandon our practice ov spelling Greek words in dheir Latin orthography. Nevverdheless, it might be done. Dhe state ov dhe matter iz dhis: Etymological spelling requires dheze words to be spelt widh ph, and phonetic spelling does not require dhem to be spelt odherwize; but it might be a point ov practical convenience to spel dhem uniformly widh f, and it rests widh dhe English peepke to determin whedher dhis chanje shal be made.

V

Dhe appropriate h-digraph for dhis sound would be bh; for az ph iz to p, so iz bh to b; but dhis digraph has nevver been adopted, and it iz not necessary to introduce it now.

Dhe letter v iz nevver doubled in any English word, because when w waz written or printed disjunctivly, vv, it would hav been impossible to double dhe v, az a v, widhout utter confusion; but az w has now becom virtually a single letter, dhere iz no longger any reason for refusing to double dhe letter v in dhe same positions in which any odher consonant would be doubled. Dhe practice, indeed, has comenced in dhe word "navvy," which, howevver, iz usually printed between inverted commas, az if it were regarded az an exceptional word, not admitted az ov right, but on sufferance. It seems to me dhat dhe time has arrived for treating v like any odher consonant, and doubling it where any odher consonant would be doubled.

Moreover, dhe letter v iz nevver preceeded by dhe letter u in any purely English word; dthough dhis combination

savy

occurs in a few words of Latin origin, such as *alluvial*, *antediluvian*. The letter o is substituted for u in words like *shove*, *dove*, *love*, *glove*, *above*, in order to avoid the juxtaposition of u and v; but there seems to be no good reason why these words should not now be spelt with u in stead of o.

Formerly, when the letters u and v were used indiscriminately for vowel and consonant, a silent e was added or retained, for the sake of distinction, in those words in which the v was consonantal; and hence it is that, in English, no word ends with v in spelling, though many hundreds end with v in pronunciation. As u and v are now thoroughly distinguished from each other, the reason for this rule no longer exists; and the final e might, therefore, be at once discarded; *cessante ratione, cessat lex*. This remark is of course confined to those words in which the final e is employed for this purpose, and does not extend to those in which it marks the length of a preceding vowel. It does so in words like *rave*, *rove*; but in words like *leave*, *sleeve*, *grieve*, *groove*, it is superfluous, the long vowel being expressed by the digraph, while in words like *give*, *have*, *love*, it is not merely superfluous, but misleading, as it appears to indicate that the vowel is long, when, in fact, the vowel is short. I would propose to omit the final e after v in every word in which it is not wanted to denote that the preceding vowel is long.

The result of these suggestions would be, that no change would be made in words like *rove*; that words like *leave* would be spelt *leav*; that words like *have* would be spelt *hav*; and that words like *having* would be spelt *havving*. The change from o to u in words like *lov*, *lover*, *loving*, = *luv*, *lurver*, *lurving*, involves other considerations, which must be discussed in connexion with the general question of vowel spelling.

These remarks will likewise apply to words derived from the Latin, such as *nerv*, *serv*, *solv*, for *nerve*, *serve*, *solve*, in which the final e is not required by etymological considerations; as well as that large class of adjectives ending in *-ive*, where the final e is not wanted on etymological grounds, while on phonetic grounds it is not merely superfluous, but

misleading, az dhe vowel, at least in English, iz not long, but short, az in *activ*, *pensiv*, *creätiv*, *evasiv*, for *active*, *pensive*, *creative*, *evasive*. Dhere ar, I believ, about 450 words ov dhis description; and to dheze must be added dhe derivativs in *-ly* and *-ness*, az *activly*, *activeness*, *pensivly*, *pensiveness*.

Subjoined ar lists ov som words in which dhe servile e iz eidher superfluous or misleading:

▼ final:

vowel long;—servile *e* superfluous.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
waive	v. waiv	achieve	v. achiev
heave	v. heav	grieve	v. griev
up-heave	v. up-heav	aggrieve	v. aggriev
leave	v. leav	relieve	v. reliev
leave	s. leav	reprieve	v. repriev
cleave	v. cleav	reprieve	s. repriev
cleave	v. cleav	retrieve	v. retriev
interleave	v. interleav	move	v. moov
reave	v. reav	move	s. moov
bereave	v. bereav	remove	v. remoov
weave	v. weav	remove	s. remoov
inweave	v. inweav	prove	v. proov
interweave	v. interweav	approve	v. approov
sleeve	s. sleev	disapprove	v. disapproov
reeve	s. reev	disprove	v. disproov
conceive	v. conceiv	improve	v. improov
preconceive	v. preconceiv	reprove	v. reproov
deceive	v. deceiv	groove	s. groov
undecieve	v. undeceiv	groove	v. groov
perceive	v. perceiv	bereavement	s. bereavment
receive	v. receiv	achievement	s. achievment
believe	v. believ	movement	s. moovment ²
disbelieve	v. disbeliev	improvement	s. improovment ²
sieve	s. siev ¹	sleeveless	a. sleeveless
thieve	v. thiev		

¹ Az to dhis word, dhe further question arizes,—whedder it should be pronounced *seev*, or spelt *siv*.

² Dheze words, az dheir pronunciation indicates, hav com to us from dhe French, and not directly from dhe Latin. Dhe spelling with *oo* iz preferable on dhis ground; dhus:—

French,—troupe	:	English,—troop
„ mouvement	:	„ moovment

Again, in English dhe verbs and nouns wil correspond: *e.g.*, proov, proof; reproov, reproof; like griev, grief.

v final :

oral liquid preceeding ;—servile e superfluous.

calve	v. calv	carve	v. carv
halve	v. halv	starve	v. starv
salve	v. salv	swerve	v. swerv
salve	s. salv		
valve	s. valv		
bivalve	s. bivalv	nerve	s. nerv
		nerve	v. nerv
delve	v. delv	unnerve	v. unnerv
delve	s. delv		
helve	s. helv	serve	v. serv
shelve	v. shelv	conserve	v. conserv
twelve	a. twelv	conserve	s. conserv
		deserve	v. deserv
solve	v. solv	observe	v. observ
absolve	v. absolv	preserve	v. preserv
dissolve	v. dissolv	preserve	s. preserv
resolve	v. resolv	reserve	v. reserv
resolve	s. resolv	reserve	s. reserv
		subserve	v. subserv
devolve	v. devolv		
evolve	v. evolv	curve	a. curv
involve	v. involv	curve	s. curv
revolve	v. revolv	curve	v. curv

v final :

vowel short ;—servile e misleading.

have	v. hav	above	adv. abov	} ³
		above	pr. abov	
give	v. giv	dove	s. dov	
forgive	v. forgiv	ring-dove	s. ring-dov	
misgive	v. misgiv	stock-dove	s. stock-dov	
		turtle-dove	s. turtle-dov	
live	v. liv	love	v. lov	
outlive	v. outliv	love	s. lov	
		glove	s. glov	
		glove	v. glov	
endive	s. endiv	shove	v. shov	}
olive	s. oliv	shove	s. shov	

th

Dhis digraph properly denotes dhe sharp sound. Az *t* iz dhe symbol ov dhe sharp dental mute, so *th* iz dhe symbol ov dhe sharp dental “aspirate.”

³ Az to dheze words, it iz a question,—whedher dhey should not be spelt with *u* in sted ov *o*.

Unfortunately, however, it is used for the flat as well as for the sharp sound; and we have at present no means of distinguishing in spelling between the two sounds. I propose that the digraph *dh* should be adopted for the flat sound.

There is a third class of words, in which *th* is pronounced like *t*; but they are chiefly proper names, such as *Thames* and *Thomas*, and I do not propose in the present paper to deal with proper names. Perhaps *thyme* is the only common noun so pronounced; and it is a question whether the pronunciation or the spelling should be altered; i.e., whether the word should be pronounced *thyme*, or spelt *tyme*.

Moreover, the digraph occasionally comes into contact, on one side, with the sound represented by the first letter, and on the other side with the sound represented by the last letter; and in such cases there is a tendency to omit one of the letters, so as to avoid repetition. Such an omission is a mistake, and cannot be defended either on phonetic or on etymological grounds. Thus, *eighth* is derived from *eight* (like *fourth* from *four*) by the suffix *th*; and should therefore be spelt *eighthth*, according to its pronunciation. On the other hand *withhold* was formerly often spelt *withold* (with a single *h*); but the correct spelling (with *hh*) is now general.

dh

In a paper which I read before the Philological Society in 1867 (Trans. 1867, p. 82) I remarked that "some single letter (like the A.S. *ð*) might very usefully and conveniently be adopted in our current spelling for the flat (or soft) sound of *th*, leaving the sharp (or hard) sound to be still represented by the established digraph *th*. The appropriate digraph for the flat (or soft) sound would, of course, be *dh*; but a single letter is in every respect far more convenient than a digraph."

This is certainly true in the abstract, but the question now is one of actual change, and I have given my reasons for thinking that upon the whole, the substitution of *dh* for *th*, to denote the flat sound, would be the most advisable.

The paper above referred to contains a list of the words in which the sound is flat when initial. It is generally, though

not always flat when medial, in Anglo-Saxon words, like *father*, *mother*, *brother*, = faadher, modher, brodher; but always sharp in Greek words, like *anathema*. When final, it iz sometimes sharp and sometimes flat, dhus in *tooth* it iz sharp, but in *booth* = boodh, it iz flat. It iz clear, dherefor, dhat a separate symbol iz wanted, az dhe pronunciation cannot be determined by any "rule ov position."

Moreover, dhis separate symbol iz required quite az much for dhe sake ov dhe etymology az for dhe sake ov dhe pronunciation. Dhus widh regard to dhe class ov words in which *th* initial iz flat, dheir trew position iz obscured and disguised by dhe present spelling. *Thou* does not bear dhe same relation to dhe Latin *tu*, az *theatre* bears to *theatrum*. In *thou*, dhe initial sound iz not only aspirated, but flat, but in *tu*, it iz both sharp and unaspirated: while in dhe German *du*, it iz unaspirated, but flat. Dhe trew relation ov dheze words iz best shown az follows:—Latin, *tu*, German, *du*, English, *dhou*. In dhe verb *to bathe*, az compared widh dhe noun *bath*, dhere iz a chanje precisely similar to dhat between *thief* and *thieve*, *glass* and *glaze*, *advice* and *advise*; but dhis etymological fact iz not noted, or not distinctly noted, in dhe orthography, az dhe final *e* in *bathe* iz at least ambiguous, and seems raadher to lengthen dhe vowel *a* dhan to soften or flatten dhe *th*. In *bathing*, dhe servile *e* disappears, but dhe *th* remains flat. Dhe trew etymological connexion ov all such words would be far more clearly and effectivly shown by dhe digraph *dh* dhan by dhe present spelling widh *th*; and it iz dherefor no less on etymological dhan on phonetic grounds dhat dhe chanje iz really called for.

In dhe subjoined lists ov words *dh* iz initial or final. Dhe words in which it iz medial ar verry numerous, and involv many etymological questions.

dh initial.

Present Spelling.	Proposed Spelling.	Present Spelling.	Proposed Spelling.
the	dhe	than	dhan
that	dhat	then	dhen
those	dhoze	thence	dhence
this	dhis	thenceforth	dhenceforth
these	dheze	thenceforward	dhenceforeward
thus	dhus		

dh initial.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
there	dhere	thou	dhou
thereabout	dhereabout	thee	dhee
thereabouts	dhereabouts	thine	dhine
thereafter	dhereafter	thy	dhy
thereat	dhereat	thysself	dhysself
thereby	dhereby		
therefore	dherefor	though	dhough
therefrom	dherefrom	tho'	dho'
therein	dherein	although	aldhough
thereinto	dhereinto	altho'	aldho'
thereof	dhereov		
thereon	dhereon		
thereupon	dhereupon		
thereout	dhereout		
thereto	dhereto		
thereunto	dhereunto		
thereunder	dhereunder		
therewith	dherewith		
therewithal	dherewithal		
thither	dhidher		
thitherto	dhidherto		
thitherward	dhidherward		
they	dhey		
them	dhem		
themselves	dhemselfs		
their	dheir		
theirs	dheirs		

dh final.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>		<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
lathe	s.	ladhe
hithe	s.	hidhe
sithe	s.	sidhe
tithe	s.	tidhe
booth	s.	boodh
lithe	a.	lidhe
blithe	a.	blidhe
smooth	a.	smoodh
with	prep.	widh
bathe	v.	badhe
swathe	v.	swadhe
writhe	v.	wridhe
breathe	v.	breadh
loathe	v.	loadh
mouth	v.	moudh
teething	part.	teedhing

dh final.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
[Dhe following verbs ar at present spelt boath ways ; i.e., somtimes widh final e, and somtimes widhout] :—		seeth	} v. seedh
sheath	} v. sheadh	seethe	
sheathe		cloath	} v. cloadh
unsheath	} v. unsheadh	clothe	
unsheathe		uncloath	} v. uncloudh
wreath	} v. wreadh	unclothe	
wreathe			
inwreath	} v. inwreadh	betroth ¹	} v. betroadh
inwreathe		betrothe	
bequeath	} v. bequeadh	sooth	} v. soodh
bequeathe		soothe	
		smooth	} v. smoodh
		smoothe	

¹ Walker makes dhe *th* in dhis word sharp, and dhe *o* short.

Etymological Relations :

Nouns.			Verbs.		
Singular.	Plural.		Singular.	Plural.	
breth	breths		troth	—	betroadh
bath	badhs		mouth	moudhs	moudh
wreath	wreadhs		tooth	teeth	teedhing.
sheath	sheadhs		lath	ladhs	
cloth ¹	cloths		path	padhs	
<i>Plural.</i>			moth ¹	moths	
clothes	cloadh	}	oath	oadhs	
<i>Pron.</i>			treuth	treadhs	
cloa'z	cloa'z		youth	youdhs	

c, see ; s, es ; z, zed.

Dhe letter s iz “ambiguous ;” being somtimes sharp and somtimes flat. It iz “equivalent” to dhe sibilant c (*see*) on dhe one side, and to z on dhe odher. It iz advisable to remoov dhis ambiguity ; but it appears to me dhat dhis object can only be attained by degrees. If z be gradually substituted for s wherevver dhe sound iz flat, dhe object wil be eventually attained ; and meanwhile, dhe pronunciation ov s may be to a certain extent, dhough by no means completely, pointed out by “rules ov position.”

Dhere iz no necessity on phonetic grounds,—whatevver dhene may be on odher grounds,—for discarding dhe sibilant c. Dhe “rule ov position” relating to it iz perfectly clear and simple : C iz always sibilant when it iz followed by e (except in sceptic²=skeptical) or i or y. If a boy or a foreiner cannot learn dhis rule, he can learn nothing.

Dhe use ov *ce* for dhe sharp final s iz a curious device ov phonetic spelling, which need not, perhaps, be interfered widh at present ; but licence (Lat. *licentia*, Fr. *licence*,) ought to be spelt *licence*,—with *c* not *s*,—boath in noun and verb.

S, az an inflexional suffix, iz flat (z), except when it im-

¹ Dheze two words ar marked by Walker with short o ; but dhe present pronunciation iz, I believ, generally long,—clauth, claudhs ; mauth, maudhs ; dhough som persons stil say, cloth, cloths ; moth, moths,—widh o short and th sharp. In breths, also, where dhe vowel iz short, th iz sharp. Az to *s* in dhe plural ov dhis class ov nouns, it iz necessarily flat after a flat consonant in dhe same syllable ; and whedher z should be substituted in spelling, iz a separate question.

² What iz dhe cause ov dhe exceptional pronunciation ov dhis word ? Dhe desire to distinguish it from *septic* seems scaircely a satisfactory explanation. In writing *skeleton* we hav adopted dhe phonetic *k*, in sted ov dhe etymological *c*. Why should we not do dhe same widh *skeptical* ?

mediately follows a sharp consonant, in which case it becomes sharp. This "rule of position" applies generally to the plural of nouns, the possessive case of nouns and pronouns, and the third person singular in verbs. In *dice* and *pence*, the exceptional pronunciation is represented in the orthography. In words like loaves = loavz, and oaths = oadhz, it is not the suffix, but the preceeding consonant, that is modified in pronunciation; and, therefore, in such words it is the spelling of the consonant, and not of the suffix, that requires alteration. After a sibilant, the suffix is a distinct syllable, *es* = *ez*. In view of these facts, it is not necessary to vary the spelling of the suffix -s, the pronunciation of which is thus made known by "rules of position;" but there is no reason why those who prefer it should not write z for the flat s in these inflexions, as well as in *as*, and in *is* and *was*, in which the s is not inflexional, but radical. Perhaps the disinclination to use z in stead of s arises partly from the dislike of its angular look. It is certainly not so pleasing to the eye as the curved s, which closely approaches the agreeable sweep of the "line of beauty." It would be better if the corners of z could be rounded off.

With regard to the discrimination of nouns (whether substantives or adjectives) and verbs by the flat and sharp sibilants, our present practice follows no rule at all. Thus we write:—

house	to house	grass	to graze
mouse	to mouse	gloss	to gloze
grease	to grease	advice	to advise
close	to close	device	to devise
use	to use	abuse	to abuse
price	to prize	excuse	to excuse
brass	to braze	diffuse	to diffuse
glass	to glaze		

In the verbs, we write sometimes s, sometimes z, for the same flat sound; and in the nouns, sometimes s, sometimes ss, and sometimes c, or rather ce, for the same sharp sound. So far as these are equivalents, I do not object to them; but

where dhey ar ambiguous, I do ; dhus, dhere iz no distinction between *close* and *to close*, dthough dhere iz between *price* and *to prize*. It seems to me dhat it would be best to write all dheze verbs widh z ; viz., houz, mouz, greaz, cloze, uze, abuze, advize, devize, excuze, diffuze. Moast ov dheze verbs ar ov Latin origin, but it must be remembered dhat dhe distinction here made between dhe nouns and dhe verbs iz not Latin, but exclusivly English ; and dherefor, its notation wil not trench upon historical etymology, while it wil satisfy grammatical etymology.

c, kee ; k, kai ; q, kew ; and x, eks.

Dhe alphabetic name ov dhe letter c, unfortunately hides dhe fact dhat it iz properly a guttural letter. Originally, it waz so entirely ; and it iz stil so in dhe main. It iz sibilant (except in sceptic = skeptic) before e, i, and y ; but it iz invariably guttural in evvery odher position. So far az it iz guttural, it iz dhe "equivalent" ov k ; which (except in sceptic) iz always uzed before e and i to denote dhe guttural sound. K iz also available when dhe guttural sound requires to be specially noted. All dhis iz strictly phonetic spelling, and does not appear to demand any alteration. Dhe mischief which iz so much complained ov widh regard to dhis letter c, in teaching children to spel, may be eazily avoided by givving it two alphabetic names, and calling it *see* when it iz sibilant, and *kee* when it iz guttural. Dhe practice which has been lately creeping in ov spelling Greek words widh k insted ov c (az, *keramic* for *ceramic*), iz founded on a total misconception ; altogedher forgetting or ignoring dhe fact dhat all our Greek words ar spelt in dhe Latin orthography, and dhat in dhe Latin orthography c represents the Greek κ. Dhis practice, dherefor, cannot be justified on etymological grounds ; but nevverdheless, where we really pronounce k, it would certainly be convenient to write k, az we hav done in *skeleton*, and might do in *skeptical*. Som years ago, a question aroze in dhe Court ov Queen's Bench az to dhe proper pronunciation ov *pharmaceutical*. Lord Campbell, who waz dhen Lord Chief Justice, suggested dhat it ought to be pronounced *pharmakeutical* ; but after conversation widh dhe Bar, who

inclined to dhe opposit pronunciation, dhe Lord Chief Justice acquiesced, observing—"Dhen let it be pharmaseutical."

Dhe combination *qu* iz not a digraph, but two letters denoting two sounds. Aldhough it came to us from dhe Latin, it iz not now confined to Latin words, but has taken dhe place ov *cw* (az in *queen* = *cwén*) in Saxon words also. Wherevver *qu* = *kw* dhe spelling iz strictly phonetic. It iz merely one combination ov letters in sted ov anodher, to express certain sounds. Nothing would be gained by writing *cween* or *kween*, in sted ov *queen*. But unfortunately dhere ar many words in which *qu* = *k* only, and not *kw*. Here iz an ambiguity which may perhaps be corrected by a "rule ov position," az dhe words ar moastly French words, like *unique*; dhough *liquor* = *likkor* is exceptional.¹ It would certainly be more convenient to spel all dheze words widh *k* in sted ov *qu*; az we hav done in *risk* and many odhers.

To sum up: Az to *spelling*, dhe rules ar dheze (and dhey ar really verry simple and eazy to learn):

Dhe sharp guttural mute iz denoted—

by *k* (*kai*) before *e*, *i*, or *y* (except in *sceptic*); and at the end of monosyllables, except in a few words.

by *c* (*kee*) in all odher positions:

but dhe combined sounds ov *kw* ar denoted—

by *qu*, in all positions; nevver by *cw* or *kw*.

Dhe consonant iz doubled by writing *ck*, in sted ov *cc* or *kk*.

Az to *pronunciation*, dhe rules ar az follows:

k iz always *k*, except when silent;

c iz always *s* before *e*, *i*, or *y* (except in *sceptic*);

c iz always *k* in all odher positions;

qu iz always *kw*, except in certain words, in which it iz simply *k*.

It iz obvious dhat dhe onely difficulties here ar, to know when *k* iz silent, and when *qu* iz simply *k*. Dhe sounds ov *kw* ar always spelt by dhe letters *qu*; but dhe letters *qu* ar not always pronounced az *kw*. Dhe silence ov *k* may be

¹ Should dhis word be altered in dhe spelling, or in dhe pronunciation? *i.e.*, should it stil be spelt *liquor* and pronounced *lik-wor*, or be spelt and pronounced *likkor*? Its present pronunciation iz an anomaly; cf. *liquid* = *lik-wid*. *Liqueur* iz a French word, not yet fully naturalized.

determined by "rules ov position;" but wherevver qu has dhe sound ov k only, it would certainly save trouble to write k.

It must be added dhat c (*see*), like s, has somtimes dhe flat sound ov z, and dhat c (*kee*), like k, iz somtimes silent. With dhe suffix -le = el, c iz really followed by e; hence, muscle = muscel iz properly pronounced mussel. Acre = aker, howevver, iz certainly an anomaly. It would be far better to write aker.

Dhe letter x iz a compendium which has nothing to recommend it but its brevity. It iz difficult, howevver, to suggest any ground for its rejection. It cannot be objected to on etymological grounds, az it iz a Latin letter, nor on phonetic grounds, az it iz dhe recognized symbol ov certain sounds; and even dhe ambiguity ov its flat and sharp varieties may be met, az I hav pointed out, by dhe "rule ov position" with regard to accented syllables, az in *example*, *exhibit*. Nevver-dheless, it iz in som respects inconvenient, and might be superseded with advantaje. In smallpox = smallpocks, it has dhe odd effect ov converting a plural into a singular.

Latin ch = k French ch = sh English ch = tsh.

Dheze three digraphs ar dhe moast difficult to deal with, in dhe whole ranje ov our orthography. Dhere seems to be no reason why we should not now substitute *sh* for *ch* in all naturalized words, like *machine*, in which dhe digraph iz so pronounced; but dhe Latin words or Latin-spelt Greek words in which ch = k, stand upon a different footing. It iz impossible to deal with dhem satisfactorily by any "rule ov position;" but it seems to me dhat it would at least be convenient to treat dhe Latin *ch* in dhe same way az *c*; i.e., to omit dhe *h* altogedher (az waz often done in Latin itself, e.g., *caracter* and *character*), and to uze *k* before e, i, or y, and *c* in all odher positions. We should dhen consistently write *caracter* and *kemist*, just az we now write *cat* and *king*. So long, howevver, az dhe three digraphs remain in force, dhey must all three be admitted into dhe Auxiliary Alphabet. Dhe best mode ov dealing with dhem requires furdher discussion. One course ov proceeding might be to supersede dhe English *ch* by dhe trigraph *tsh*.

g, gai ; g, jee ; j, jai.

Dhe letter g iz “ambiguous;” being somtimes sibilant, and somtimes guttural. Dhe desire to mark dhe distinction has led to various contrivances, which hav occasioned far more confusion dhan dhey hav remooved or prevented. It ought to be clearly understood dhat dheze contrivances belong wholly and solely to phonetic spelling, and ar in no respect etymological. Dhe *h* inserted in dhe old form *ghess*, and dhe *u* inserted in dhe current form *guess*, ar purely phonetic expedients, adopted to indicate the pronunciation ov dhe word, and not to record its origin. Dhey simply show dhat dhe *g* iz guttural, and not sibilant. Being exclusivly phonetic devices, dhey may be improoved or superseded widhout trenching in any way on etymological spelling.

On dhe odher hand, in Latin words and Latin-spelt Greek words like *angel* and *stratagem*, a certain vew ov etymological spelling may appear to require dhat dhe *g* should be retained. If we leav dhe *g* untouched in such words, relying on “rules ov position” to determin dhe pronunciation, we may, widhout endanjerin etymological spelling, adopt az regards all odher words dhe simple rule, dhat wherevver dhe sound ov *j* occurs dhe letter *j* should be employed.

Dhe treuth iz, dhat dhe difficulty arizes chiefly from dhe conflict in our language ov two different orthographic systems. On dhe Saxon side, *g* iz properly guttural; but on dhe Norman or French side, *g* iz sibilant before *e* and *i* or *y*, dhough guttural in all odher positions. *Gaol*, I believ, iz dhe only word in which *g* iz sibilant before *a*. Dhis spelling, I suppose, iz regarded az etymological; but it iz certainly not so in fact. Dhe French word, *geôle*, iz not spelt widh *ga*, or even widh simple *g*, but widh *ge = j*, a verry important difference. *Gaol* iz dhereför an orthographical anomaly; and dhe phonetic spelling, *jail*, iz clearly dhe best.

And widh respect to a large number ov words even ov Latin origin, dhe substitution ov *j* for *g* would not only be more convenient, but even more strictly etymological. In words like *dungeon*, *gudgeon*, *strange*, dhe combination *ge*

represents not *g* in dhe original word, but *i* or *e*, passing through dhe sound ov *y* into dhat ov *j*; dhus—

Lat.	dominionem	gōbionem	extrāneum
	domnion	gōbion	extrānyum
	donyon	gōbyon	extrānjum
French	{ donjon	goujon	estrange
and	{ dunjon	gudjon	strange (Eng.)
English	{ dungeon	gudgeon	étrange (Mod. Fr.)

In som words boath forms ar actually in use; e.g., serjeant and sergeant, from *servientem*. In all such words a labial preceeding dhe *j* becoms absorbed or elided. Dhus, *calumniare* has becom challenge, which would be better spelt *challenj*. Words ov dhis class were often spelt widh *j* in Old French; az, *venjer*, from Lat. *vindicare*, becomming *vendi'er*, *vendjer*, *venjer*, and *venger*, whence Eng. *vengeance* = *venjance*. So, *judicare* became *judi'er*, *judjer*, Mod. Fr. *juger*, Eng. to judge = *judj*.

Dhe practical advantaje ov adopting dhe letter *j* (*jai*) uniformly in such words would be, dhat dhe letter *g* (*gai*) might be reserved for dhe guttural sound widhout any index letter, like *u*, being required to gard against a sibilant pronunciation. Even at present, in words like *guard*, dhe *u* iz quite superfluous, and in dhe derivativ *regard*, it does not occur.

Dhe rule now proposed would com into collision widh anodher peculiarity ov English spelling, viz., dhat *j* nevver ends a written word, dthough hundreds ov spoken words terminate widh dhat sound. Az in dhe similar case ov *v*, which waz liable to be confounded widh *u*, dhis curious fact iz probably due to dhe former confusion ov *i* and *j*. Az dhis confusion no longger exists, dhere seems to be now no reazon why *j* should not be allowed to cloze a word in dhe place ov *ge*; az in *judj* = judge. In doubling dhe consonant in such words, dhe phonetic value raadher dhan dhe literal form has been regarded; and az *ge* = *dzh*, so *dge* = *ddzh*: dhus—

age = *aidzh*; edge = *eddzh*.

At all events dhe practice, which has been much increasing lately, ov omitting dhe servile *e* in spelling dhe derivativs, az in judgment, in sted ov judgement, iz quite indefensible,

being a moast inconvenient violation ov dhe rule, dhat g iz always guttural when not followed by e, i, or y. It iz clear dhat, according to dhis rule, judgment iz an unpronounceable word. It should be written eidher judgment or judgement.

ng.

In *ungrateful*, *ingratitude*, n and g do not form a digraph. To mark dhe pronounciation distinctly, a hyphen iz required : un-grateful, in-gratitude.

In *danger*, *ranger*, n and g do not form a digraph. In dhe preceeding remarks, relating to g and j, it has been suggested (az much on etymological az on phonetic grounds) dhat such words should be spelt widh j in sted ov g ; danjer, ranjer. But Greek and Latin words, in which dhe original has g, like *angel*, *tangent*, ar required by dhe exigencies ov etymological spelling to preserv dhe g.

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
change	chanje	swinge	swinj
exchange	exchanje	swingeing	swinjing
estrangle	estranje	twinge	twinj
strange	stranje	lounge	lounj
grange	granje	lunge	lunj
range	ranje	plunge	plunj
arrange	arranje	dungeon	dunjon
derange	deranje	avenge	avenj
danger	danjer	challenge	challenj
endanger	endanjer	lozenge	lozzenj
manger	manjer	orange	orranj
		ginger	jinjer
flange	flanj	harbinger	harbinjer
cringe	crinj	messenger	messinjer
fringe	frinj	passenger	passinjer
hinge	hinj	porringer	porrinjer
singe	sinj	scavenger	scavvinjer
springe	sprinj	wharfinger	wharfinjer

And, ov course, all dhe derivativs ov dheze words to be spelt in dhe same way.

In *long*, ng iz a digraph. Dhe symbol iz compound, but dhe sound iz singgle. In dhis instance it would really be ov great benefit to introduce a new letter. Dhe digraph iz cumbersom and inconvenient, and a singgle letter would be an immense improovment. And for dhis reason. Dhe only

way in which we are able, with our present means, to mark the difference in pronunciation between such words as *long* and *longer*, *hanger* and *anger*, is by adding a second *g*,—*longger*, *angger*,—which is both troublesome and unsightly, and in stead of reforming our orthography by diminishing the number of letters, would largely add to them, seeing that the words in which these sounds occur are in very frequent use. I am fully aware of the objections to new letters; but in this particular case, if a single letter *could* be adopted, it would effect a great gain in every way,—in ease and convenience, in neatness and simplicity, in brevity and clearness. The truth is, that *ng* was not originally a digraph, but an accidental combination. In Latin, *n* denoted the nasal liquid before *g* (*gai*) as well as before *d*, *-m* being used before *b*, e.g. *tango*, *tundo*, *cumbo*. The *g* (*gai*) was no doubt pronounced distinctly; *tan' go*; the *n* having, most likely, not the naso-dental, but the naso-guttural sound. In English, the combination 'ng' has come to be used as a digraph, to denote this naso-guttural sound for which we have no single letter.

gh.

Whatever may have been the original value of 'gh,' this digraph, when pronounced at all, has now invariably the same sound as guttural *g* (*gai*); and the *h* might therefore be conveniently omitted; thus, *gost*, *gastly*. This omission, however, is not necessary on phonetic grounds, as *gh* and *g* (*gai*) are now simply "equivalents," i.e., two separate signs for the same sound.

In certain positions, 'gh' is silent, as in *high*, *height*, *weigh*, *weight*, *bought*, *daughter*. Its retention in these positions involves the general question of the expediency of retaining silent letters; to which I shall advert hereafter.

It is often said that "*gh* is sometimes pronounced like *f*;" but this is not a correct statement of the facts. I have not been able to discover any word in which the sound of *f* is attached to the digraph *gh*; but there are many words in which that sound is attached to the trigraph *ugh*. It is the

labial element, denoted by *dhe u*, and not *dhe* purely guttural element, denoted by *gh*, dhat has acquired *dhe* sound ov *f*. We may say dhat *dhe* trigraph *ugh* iz somtimes pronounced like *f*; but perhaps *dhe* moast correct statement iz, dhat *dhe* original sound ov 'gh' az a guttural aspirate havving been entirely lost, *dhe* preceeding *u* has becom a consonant. (*Dhe* same chanje has taken place in *lieutenant*, pronounced *lef-tenant*, widhout any influence ov a guttural aspirate.) If 'ugh' were *always* so pronounced, *dhere* would be no difficulty; but it iz quite az often silent altogether, (az in though = *dho*) and hence *dhe* perplexity to which *dhis* combination has givven rise, proving so great a stumbling-block not merely to foreiners but to ourselvs. *Dhe* eaziest and simplest way ov remooving *dhis* stumbling-block iz, to spel widh *dhe* letter *f* *dhoze* words which hav acquired *dhe* sound ov *f*. *Dhere* does not appear to be any insuperable obstacle to our doing so. *Dheze* words ar not ov Greek or Latin origin; *dhey* belong to dhat portion ov *dhe* language which, until comparatively recent times, waz always spelt phonetically; and som ov *dhem* we hav alreddy altered. *Dhus*, we write boath *draft* and *draught*, confining *dhe* former to written documents; az well az *duff* and *dough*, *duff* being *dough* dhat iz boiled. We hav royal authority for writing *enuff*, *dhis* being substantially *dhe* form adopted by Charles *dhe* First in *dhe* letters written to his wife in 1645, which ar printed in *dhe* recent Report of *dhe* Royal Commission on Historical MSS. (Appendix, p. 6):—"Thy dispatches * * w^{ch} I red with wonder anufe;" "but anuf of this, I know thy affection, etc." *Dhis* shows dhat *dhe* labial sound had *dhen* becom prevalent.

If all *dhe* words dhat ar so pronounced were now spelt widh *f* or *ff*, no chanje would be needed in *dhe* spelling ov *dhe* remaining words, az a "rule ov position" would eazily declare whedher *gh* waz to be silent or guttural before or after a vowel; *dhe* pronunciation ov *dhe* primitivs being extended to *dhe* derivativs, az ghastly, aghast; high, higher, highest; plough, ploughed, ploughing. *Hiccough*, which iz doutless an imitativ word, should be spelt *hiccup*; and

dhe Irish *lough*, pronounced *luff* az well az *lock*, iz in a doubtful or transition state, and iz scaircely an English word. In *gherkin* and *burgher*, dhe *h* iz a kind ov index letter, serving in sted ov *u*, to prevent *g* being pronounced *j* before the following *e*.

Dhe following iz a list ov words in which dhe labial pronunciation has established itself, *gh* being silent:—

<i>Present Spelling. Proposed Spelling.</i>		<i>Present Spelling. Proposed Spelling.</i>	
laugh ¹	laff or laaf	chough	chuff
laughter	lafter or laafter	enough	enuff
draught	draft or draaft	slough	sluff
draughts	drafts or draafts	rough	ruff
cough	coff or cauf	tough	tuff
trough	troff or trauf	duff (<i>for</i> dough)	duff

rh

r and *rh* ar, I believ, in dhe present state ov dhe English language, phonetically equivalent, but not orthographically interchangeable. Dhe employment ov *rh* in English spelling iz purely etymological, and iz properly confined to Greek words, which com to us in a Latin dress. Hence, dhe word *rhyme*, which iz dhe Anglo-Saxon *rim*, should be spelt *ryme*, or raadher *rime*; az dhe erroneous insertion ov *h*, az well az dhe chanje ov *i* into *y*, givs dhe false appearance ov a Greek origin to an Anglo-Saxon word.

ci, si, ti; su, tu.

Dheze combinations widh *i*, in certain cases, ar “equivalents” ov shy-, sh-, or ov zhy-, zh-; dhat iz to say, under certain circumstances dhe sibilant (sharp or flat az dhe case may be) becoms “aspirated.” Dhe “rules ov position” applicable to dheze facts (which render it unnecessary to alter dhe spelling) may be eazily lernt, and need not be

¹ Dhe familiar nursery-rime (which must hav been a rime to dhe ear) appears to hav been composed at a time when “laugh” waz pronounced “law”:—

“Hey! diddle, diddle!
The cat and the fiddle!
The cow jumpt over the moon:
The little dog lau’t
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.”

set out here. Dhey depend chiefly upon dhe accent: if it falls upon dhe syllable, dhe pronunciation iz normal, az in soci'ety; but if it preceeds, dhe 'aspiration' takes place, az in so'cial = so'syal, so'shyal, so'shal. In words like vision, dhe s, being between two vowels, iz flat, and hence dhe aspiration iz also flat; viz'yon, vizh'yon, vizh'on.

Dhe similar phenomena widh regard to su,—(sugar, pleasure) depend upon dhe diphthongal nature ov dhe u = yoo, yu. It might, perhaps, be convenient to spel sure and sugar widh h; shure, shugar; dhough it iz a question whedher dhe pronunciation ov dheze words ought not to be altered. Dhe diphthongal u has a similar effect upon t (az in feature = fea'tshure); but not upon c, which, before u, has always dhe sound ov k.

INDEX LETTERS.

An index letter differs from a digraph in dhis respect. In a digraph two letters ar combined to form one joint symbol for a singgle sound; az *oa* in *foal*; but an index letter iz subjoined to anodher letter to show dhat dhis odher letter iz to receiv a particular pronunciation; az dhe servile *u* in *guest*, or dhe servile *e* in *fence*, *fringe*, *foe*. In *fate* dhe servile *e* marks dhe pronunciation ov dhe preceeding vowel, *a*, and not ov dhe *t*, which it more immediately follows.

Dhe servile u.

Dhis servs to show dhat *g* before *e* or *i* iz to be guttural, and not sibilant. I hav referred to it in a previous section, in discussing *g* and *j*. Whatever iz done az to substituting *j* for *g*, dhe servile *u* might at once be omitted in words like *guard*, *guarantee*, in which it iz not wanted to characterize dhe sound ov dhe *g*. Dhe original sound may hav been compound = *gw*, but dhis iz not perhaps a sufficient ground for retaining dhe *u*, looking at dhe etymological connexion az a whole,—e.g. compare *guard* and *regard*. Even if *guard* came to us from Italy, and *regard* from France, dhat does not seem to be an adequate reazon for maintaining dhis difference in dhe spelling; nor iz dhe *u* necessary to indicate

dhe connexion widh *ward* and *reward*. In *guano* = *gwaano*, dhe *u* iz wanted, if, indeed, it ought not to be replaced by *w*. In words like *language* it iz not an index letter, and its pronunciation az *w* may be determined by a "rule ov position;" but it would be better, perhaps, to write *w*.

Dhe servile e.

Dhe uses ov dhis index letter ar verry various; but dhey may be classed in two divisions; 1, to mark dhe pronunciation ov consonants; 2, to mark dhe pronunciation ov vowels.

1. Widh regard to consonants, dhe servile *e* performs several functions; it somtimes marks dhe flat sound ov *th*; it notifies, dthough by no means consistently, dhe sibilant sounds ov *c* and *g*; it also discriminates under som circumstances, but not at all systematically, dhe flat and sharp sounds ov *s*; and it prevents a word or syllable from clozing widh *v*.

In previous sections, I hav noticed all dheze points, more or less fully. If dhe suggestions dhere made be adopted, dhe servile *e* wil be to a great extent superseded widh respect to dhe consonants in question. Dhere wil stil, howevver, remain a considerable amount ov irregularity az regards dhe letter *s*, which wil require to be delt widh hereafter.

Generally, it may be borne in mind az an important principle, dhat dhe silent *e* iz one ov dhe worst and moast objectionable expedients in English orthography, and should be forthwidh expelled wherevver it cannot show dhat it answers som positiv and wel defined purpose. It should always be regarded az on its trial; and if it cannot justify itself, should be at once condemned.

2. Widh regard to vowels, dhe servile *e* cannot be satisfactorily considered except in connexion widh dhe general question ov vowel spelling, which I propose to examin separately.

SILENT LETTERS.

In my remarks on "phonetic spelling" (ante, p. 32), I hav recommended, az one ov dhe means ov reconciling dhe claims

ov etymology widh dhoze ov pronunciation, "dhe retention ov etymological silent letters, if dheir silence may be known or determined by rules ov position."

It may be laid down az a rule dhat initial *k* and initial *g* (gai) ar silent before dhe nasal liquid *n*; az in knot, gnaw; and dhat *g* (gai) iz silent before *m* or *n* in dhe same syllable; az in phlegm, sign.

Dheze rules extend to dhe *English* derivativs, az, unknown, signed, signing; but not to odher derivativs, az signature, phlegmatic. Dhere iz no difficulty in ascertaining what derivativs ar ov English formation; and dhere iz dherefor no difficulty in applying dheze rules. Dhe suffixes *-ed* and *-ing*, *-er* and *-ee*, az well az *-ment*, ar English (I do not mean Anglo-saxon in origin, but English in use); and hence, dhe silence ov dhe *g* in *consign* obtains equally in consigned, consigning, consigner, consignee, and consignment; but in words of Latin origin, like assignation, designation, resignation, dhe *g* iz pronounced in accordance widh dhe rule. Dhe chanje ov accent in consignee iz an entirely distinct question.

Dhe *g* in reign iz required by dhe etymology. In foreign and sovereign it iz not required eidher by dhe etymology or by dhe pronunciation, and should dherefor be omitted. And should not dhe *g* be omitted in campaign (Fr. *campagne*), az it iz in mountain (Fr. *montagne*)?

Doubt and debt should be spelt dout and det on etymological grounds. Like moov and proov, dhey com to us from dhe French, and not direct from dhe Latin. Dhey ar colloquial, not literary forms. A similar remark wil apply to "receipt," which should be spelt "receit," like deceit and conceit.

Dhe *l* should be rejected from *could* on etymological grounds; dhough retained in would and should.

Many odher "rules ov position" widh regard to silent letters (such az *w* before *r*, dhe unpronounced *l*, dhe silent *h*, and so forth) require to be laid down; but dhe foregoing wil suffice to illustrate dhe principle, which iz all dhat can be attempted here.

Dhere iz, howevver, one instance which claims fuller notice;

dhat ov dhe suffix *-ed* in dhe Past Tense and Past Participle. It has often been proposed to spel dhis suffix widh simple *-d* or *-t*, according az it iz pronounced flat or sharp. Dhe attempt, indeed, has been frequently made, and has always failed. I see no necessity for it. Dhe suffix iz really *-ed*, and in emphatic or solemn utterance, az well az often in poëtry, iz pronounced az a distinct syllable. Dhe rule iz clear. Dhis suffix iz subjoined to dhe verb in dhe form ov *-ed* when dhe verb remains odherwise unaltered; but where dhe verb undergoes also som internal chanje, dhe suffix becoms simple *-d* or *-t*, az in tell, told; weep, wept; buy, bought; send, sent.¹ It iz likewise often simple *-t* after dhe liquids l, m, n, widh or widhout an internal chanje in dhe verb, az spell, spelt; deal, dealt (delt); dream, dreamt (dremt); mean, meant (ment). Dhere iz no reazon, however, why boath forms should not be permitted at dhe discretion ov dhe writer; az, shipped, shipt; locked, lockt; passed, past; rubbed, rubd; tugged, tugd; buzzed, buzd; but, az I hav said, it iz not necessary, az a "rule ov position" determins dhe pronunciation. Where dhe *-e* in *-ed* iz silent, dhe *-d* iz *necessarily* pronounced sharp or flat according to dhe nature ov dhe preceeding consonant widh which it coms into contact, and dherefor it need not be noted in dhe spelling. Dhere iz also considerable difficulty according to dhe present spelling widh regard to words like *chanced* and *changed* (which cannot be written *chanct* and *changd*), and, indeed, widh regard to all verbs ending with a servile *e*.

VOW'EL SPELLING.

Dhe question here iz not merely how to spel, but what to spel. Dhe consonant sounds may be eazily ascertained; but dhe vow'el sounds ar so volatile and versatile, dhat it iz

¹ Dhere ar, in fact, three conjugations ov English verbs, according az dhe Past Tense iz formed from dhe Present—

1. By dhe suffix *-ed*;
2. By dhe suffix *-d* or *-t*, widh or widhout internal chanje;
3. By vowel-chanje.

All new verbs follow dhe first conjugation.—In each conjugation dhere ar som apparent irregularities.

hard to fix dhem. What iz dhe prop'er pronuncia'tion ov *eidher*? iz it ai'dher? or ee'dher? or i'dher? And how should it be spelt? It appears to me dhat before any extensiv chanje iz made in our vow-el spelling, dhe subject requires to be more fully exam'ined dhan perhaps it has hidh'erto been. Dhe few remarks about to be made wil do no more dhan furnish a verry slight contribu'tion to dhe discussion.

Setting aside for dhe pres'ent dhe effect ov a following *r* (see notes on pajes 11, 13, *ante*), dh'ere ar, in English, sixteen vow-el-sounds,—6 short, 6 long, and 4 diphthon'gal,—which require to be represented in som way or odh'er (see list on paje 7, Nos. 13 and 14, *ante*). Az we hav refused, since dhe invention ov printing, to add an'y new letters to dhe Lat'in alphabet, and az *y* and *w*, when vowels, ar merely ornamental vari'eties ov *i* and *u*, we hav in fact onely 5 sin'gul letters to denote dheze 16 vow-el-sounds, viz., a, e, i, o, u. It iz clear dh'erefor dhat dhe lim'ited resources ov dhe Lat'in alphabet ar wholely inad'equate to do justice to dhe abundant fulness and picturesk vari'ety ov dhe English vow-el-system. Dh'ere ar five letters for 16 sounds, and, consequently, 11 ar unrepresented.

Az regards dhe short vow-el in *full*, Mr. Ellis, in his "Glossic," propos'es dhe new di'graph *uo*; writing *fuol* for *full*. Dh'ere appears to me to be dhe stronggest possible objection to dhe use ov a di'graph for a short vow-el. Dhis point waz adverted to in my propo'sed Resolu'tions, No. 10 (*ante*, paje 7). Dhe rule,—short vowels, sin'gul letters; long vowels, di'graphs,—iz brief, plain, and practical. To depart from dhis rule iz to perpetuate, so far, dhe existing confu'sion. I hav suggested dhe use ov dhe sin'gul letter *u*, to be called "short oo"; but dhe question iz comparativly new, and requires to be discussed before an'y satisfactory conclusion can be com to.

Dhe remaining short vowels be'ing denoted by dhe 5 existing letters, what iz to be done widh dhe long and diphthon'gal vowels? Som orthograph'ical reformers propose to introduce 10 new letters for dheze sounds; but before admitting dhis formidable array ov nov'elties, let us exam'in carefully dhe actual state ov dhe case.

In our present orthography there are three devices by which we distinguish the short and long vowels (for brevity's sake, I will deal with the diphthongs as long vowels); the doubled consonant to mark the short vowels; and the digraph and the servile *e* to mark the long ones. These are purely devices of phonetic spelling, and are in no respect etymological. They are very curious contrivances, being a kind of "legal fictions" in orthography; and would answer their purpose sufficiently well, if placed under proper regulation. If they really do so, it is not necessary to introduce new vowel letters, except for "short oo."

All these three devices are founded on the notion that an accented vowel spelt with a single letter is long in an open, and short in a closed syllable; a monosyllable being for this purpose regarded as accented. In an open syllable, the vowel is not followed by a consonant; in a closed syllable, it is. Thus, in *go*, *going*, *negotiate*, the vowel is long; while in *got*, *gotten*, it is short. The problem in vowel spelling, therefore, is to show whether the syllable is open or closed; for, according to this view, the vowel will be long or short as a necessary consequence.

This view is fictitious, because a vowel may be long in a closed syllable; but it is a convenient fiction. Where in a polysyllabic word the vowel is followed by two consonants, one is assumed to belong to each syllable, as, *lan·tern*; and a consonant is doubled on the same assumption, as, *lat·ter*. Where, however, the vowel is followed by one consonant only, such consonant is assumed to belong to the succeeding syllable, as, *lat·ter*; and on this assumption the servile *e* is regarded as drawing the consonant away from the preceding syllable, as, *late* = *late*. In the same way a digraph is supposed to produce an open syllable by the effect of the second vowel on the first, as, *ga·it* = *ga·it*. Both the servile *e* and the second letter in the digraph, though really silent, are supposed to act as if they were pronounced; as if they were dissyllabic, though really monosyllabic; thus, in *ga·it*, *gate*, the *a* only is pronounced, but it is pronounced as if it were in an open syllable, and therefore long.

Dheze two expedients,—dhe di-graph and dhe servile e,—ar “equiv-alents,” boath indicating by sim-ilar fictions, dhough in different ways, dhat dhe preceeding vowel iz long. Dhere ar som inconveniences attending dhem; but dhere seems to be no sufficient ground for discarding eidher, unless we discard boath. *Vain* and *vane*; *to waiv* and *to wave*; ar respectively identical in sound, but different in sense; and why should dhe spelling ov eidher be altered? and if altered, which should be adopted,—dhe servile e, or dhe di-graph?

Servile e.

If dheze principles ar borne in mind, som ov dhe moot points ov English spelling may be reddily deci'ded. We double dhe *l* in “gravelly,” which, ov course, iz really “gravel-y” (suffix-y, not suffix-ly), because dhe word would odh'erwize look like “grave-ly;” we want to make a distinction, and we double dhe *l* improperly because we wil not double dhe *v*; but if we write “gravvel,” we can also write “gravvely,” widhout an'y risk ov its being confounded widh “gravely.” So, in traveller, travelled, travelling, dhough dhe accent iz not on dhe sec'ond syllable, we double dhe *l* in sted ov dhe *v*, because dhe *e* would odh'erwize appear to be si-lent, (trave-ler, trave-led, trave-ling, like shaveling); but if we write travvel, az we ought to do, dhen travveler travveled, and traveling, wil be correctly and phonet-ically spelt.

In dhoze nouns which hav *v* (flat) in dhe plu-ral, but *f* (sharp) in dhe sin-gular, az loaf, loaves, dhe suffix iz not -es, but simple -s. Dhe *e* follows dhe *v*, according to dhe gen-eral rule, and dhen *s* iz subjoined. Dhus, *loaves* iz really *loave* + *s*, and not *loav* + *es*; i.e., dhe *e* belongs to dhe *v*, and not to dhe *s*, and should dherefor be omitted when dhe vowel iz spelt widh a di-graph, e.g., loaf, loavs; but retained when wanted to mark a long vowel, e.g., staff, stave, staves.

Whatevver val-ue, inflexional or odh'erwize, dhe fin-al *e* may hav had formerly,—in Chaucer's time or at an'y odh'er pe-riod,—it iz now, when mute, simply an index letter.

In words like *beauty*, compa-red widh dhe French *beauté*,

dhe final *e* has been turned into *y* in order to show dhat it iz not mute. Such a word, dherefor, iz really spelt upon boath principles, etymological and phonetic; dhe first syllable being spelt in dhe French, dthough pronounced in dhe English manner; while in dhe second syllable dhe spelling deviates from dhe French orthography for dhe express purpose ov denoting the English pronunciation. Half etymological and half phonetic, it iz a striking example ov dhe inconsistency ov our practice. Dhe old spelling, *beuty*, might wel be revived.

In denoting a long vowel, dhe servile *e* iz uzed in two ways; it iz subjoined (dthough apparently widhout necessity in monosyllables) to dhe vowel-letter itself, when dhis ends dhe syllable, as, fee, fie, foe, flue; or it iz appended to dhe consonant, if dhe latter clozes dhe syllable, az, fane, fine, fore, fume. It iz always silent, except in a few Greek and Latin words, like *simile* and *catastrophe*, which may be eazily learnt.

In *ague* and *argue* dhe syllable *-ue* iz pronounced; in *vague* it iz not. Why? Because in *ague* and *argue* dhis syllable iz a radical part ov dhe word; in *vague* it iz simply a clumsy device ov phonetic spelling. In *vague*, dhe servile *e* shows dhe *a* to be long, but if it stood close against dhe *g*, dhe latter would be sibilant; and in order to prevent dhis, dhe servile *u* iz inserted, az a kind ov "buffer" between dhem.

Dhis iz a French device, but we hav extended it to som words dhat ar not French; az, *tongue*, which iz dhe Anglo-Saxon *tung* (nom. sing., tunge). Dhe original spelling ov dhis word requires to be revived, az wel on etymological, az on phonetic grounds.

In many ov dheze words dhe vowel iz short, notwithstanding dhe servile *e*; and where it iz so, dhe letters *-ue* ar misleading, and may wel be omitted. Dhe fact dhat som ov dhe words ar so spelt in French does not seem to be a sufficient reason for retaining dheze now misleading letters; nor does dhe original quantity ov dhe vowel determin dhe question. In Greek, dhe *o* iz long in demagôgos, but short

in dialogos; while in English, it iz short in boath. Dheze remarks apply to dhe following words:—

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
demagogue	demagog	catalogue	catalog
emmenagogue	emmenagog	decatalogue	decalog
menagogue	menagog	dialogue	dialog
mystagogue	mystagog	eclogue	eclog
pedagogue	pedagog	epilogue	epilog
ptysmagogue	ptysmagog	monologue	monolog
synagogue	synagog	prologue	prolog
tongue	tung	harangue	harang

Dhe words in which dhe vow·el iz long stand in a different position. In *league* and *colleague* dhe si·lent syllable iz superfluous, dhe long vow·el being denoted by dhe di·graph; and we may dherefor write *leag* and *colleag*; but in dhe following words dhere iz a difficulty, az a di·graph must be substituted, if *-ue* be dropped:—

plague	would becom	plaig
vague		vaig
rogue		roag
brogue		broag
brogues		broags
vogue		voag
fugue		feug
fatigue		fateeg
intrigue		intreeg
collogue		colloag
prorogue		proroag
disembogue		disemboag

Dheze alterations would involv odher questions, and it may perhaps be considered dhat som ov dhe words ar not so fully naturalized az to call for imme·diate chanje (see remarks on dhis point, *ante*, p. 26).

When a long vow·el iz denoted by a di·graph, dhe servile *e* becoms superfluous. Hence, it might be rejected from dhe following words, widh dheir compounds and derivativs:—

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>	<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
awe	aw	freeze	freez
ewe	ew	squeeze	squeez
owe	ow	frieze	friez
aye	ay	baize	baiz
eye	ey	maize	maiz
wheeze	wheez	seize	seiz
sneeze	sneez	ooze	ooz
breeze	breez	gauze	gauz

Nor iz it necessary in—

<i>Present Spelling.</i>	<i>Proposed Spelling.</i>
adze	adz
axe	ax
bronze	bronz
furze	furz

Nor in dhe large classes ov Lat'in words, like 'requisit,' and 'determin.' See also dhe words no'ticed in reference to dhe letter *v*, *ante*, pp. 43, 44.

It wil be seen dhat, in dhis pa'per, I hav omitted dhe servile *e* wherevver dhe preceeding vow'el iz short; but widhout altering dhe *o* in such words az som, com, becom, which involvs odh'er considera'tions.

Dhe suffix *-le* iz *-el* inverted: able = a'bel. Hence, when it follows a sin'gul consonant, dhe preceeding vow'el iz long; and if dhat vow'el iz short, dhe consonant should be doubled: rabble = rab'el. It would be a great improovment to write *-el*; but in words like single, angle, circle, it would be better to return to dhe Lat'in orthog'raphy, singul, angul, circul; from which dhe deriv'ativs, singular, angular, circular, would be directly deduced.

Dhe spelling ov *-re* iz on a different footing. It simply subjoins *e* to dhe Lat'in word, shorn ov its case-suffix: lucr-um, lucre; theatr-um, theatre. But here, again, we ar inconsistent; for we write monster, not monstre, dhough dhe Lat'in form iz monstr-um. And in som words dhe pronuncia'tion iz trav'ersed; for lucre = lucer ought to be pronounced lu'ser, not lu'ker. It would certainly be advi'sable to spel all such words according to one rule.

Doubled Consonants; and Accentual Marks.

If dhe consonant were doubled in evvery *accented* syllable where dhe vow'el iz short, our orthog'raphy in dhat respect would be simple, systematic, and consistent. Dhis cannot, howevver, be done in dhoze Greek and Lat'in words in which dhe consonant iz sin'gul in dhe orig'inal, widhout infringing on "etymological" spelling. We do it alreddy, verry properly, in dhe collo'quial forms, like *letter*, but not in dhe lit'erary forms, like *literature*. I hav

acted upon dhis vew throughout dhis pa'per; but no dout words like *several* ar o'pen to discussion. In words like *govern*, *cover*, dhe chanje ov o to u involvs odh'er questions. Dthough dhe consonant iz doubled in spelling, onely one iz pronounced; and, dherefor, where two ar really pronounced, a hyphen iz needed; az, un-known, il-literate. In *wholly* dhe servile *e* separates dhe consonants while it keeps dhe vow-el long. It rimes properly widh *solely*; but *wholly* ought to rime widh *folly*.

In Greek and Lat'in dhe consonants were doubled for odh'er reazons, such az dhe assimila'tion ov one consonant widh anodh'er, *e.g.* illiterate for inliterate, flamma for flagma; and in dhe English pronuncia'tion ov such words it does not affect dhe accent; az, inflamma'tion. In flame, we hav dropped one m, and lengthened dhe vow-el. In such words, dhe vow-el pronuncia'tion may be reddily shown by pla'cing a mark at dhe end ov dhe accented syllable, after dhe vow-el, if long, and if short, after dhe clo'zing consonant. I hav adopted dhis contrivance in dhe pre'sent portion ov my pa'per, not widh a vew to its gen'eral employment, but solely for dhe purpose ov exhib'iting practically dhe effect ov clo'zed and o'pen syllables, when accented. I hav employ'ed it in dhoze syllables in which dhe vow-el iz followed by a sin'gul consonant, whedh'er spelt widh a sin'gul l'etter or a di'graph, or in which dhe consonant iz followed by *l* or *r*, az, prob'lem, di'graph; and also in dhoze o'pen syllables which ar followed by a vow-el, az, be'ing. I hav pla'ced it in words like sin'gul, to show dhat dhe *g* (gai) iz not si'lent; and in dhe Past Tenses and Participles, on dhe assumption dhat dhe *e* in *ed* iz pronounced, az clo'zed. By dhis means, and by dhe aid ov a verry few "rules ov posit'ion," dhe pronuncia'tion ov nearly all our Greek and Lat'in words may be perfectly wel indicated widhout any chanje ov spelling. Dhus, in na'tion, dhe *a* iz long, dhe syllable be'ing o'pen, while in nat'ional, it iz short, dhe syllable be'ing clo'zed. Dhe boy or dhe foreiner (stil better, forrener) must first learn how to spel 'nation,' and dhen how to pronounce it; and so, widh 'national;' and he ought also to learn why *ti* in

this position is the "equivalent" of *sh*, and not merely how, but why the *a* in 'national' differs from the *a* in 'nation.'

In monosyllables, the doubled consonant is not needed. In the note at the head of this section (§ VII.), I have made a suggestion with regard to *l*; and in the few words like *lamb*, the *b* (which stands for a second *m*) might very well be omitted, both on etymological and phonetic grounds. With respect to *ck*, *ff*, *ss*, other considerations are involved, besides the shortness of the vowel.

Complete phonetic spelling is simply impossible without some mode of marking the accent. In English, the accent may be determined by "rules of position," to a great extent, but not entirely. Accentual marks are not, and will not be, adopted in English writing or printing; and therefore English orthography cannot be made perfect. Nevertheless, the contrivance above referred to may be employed with advantage, not merely in Pronouncing Dictionaries, but wherever it is desired to note the vowel pronunciation, as well as the accent, in the accented syllables in polysyllabic words. The doubled consonant is merely a substitute for an accentual mark.

Vowel Digraphs.

The confusion which exists in our actual orthography, on the one hand, in the use of the single letters for the different short vowels, and on the other, in the use of the digraphs for the various long and diphthongal vowels, cannot be remedied without a careful and detailed examination of the individual words, or at least classes of words. This would far exceed the limits of the present paper; but if the principles here contended for should be admitted and adopted, it would be a work of little difficulty, though of some labor, to apply them consistently to the whole of the language, paying due regard to etymology, both historical and grammatical, as well as to pronunciation.

Without attempting this now, I may add one or two remarks. I have shown that a digraph and the servile *e* are

simply two different modes of marking a long or diphthongal vowel. The reasons why the one or the other mode has been preferred in the actual spelling of individual words are mainly etymological; and such spelling, therefore, ought not to be altered in any case without due consideration. In some cases the object has been to distinguish between words having the same sound, but different senses. *Rode* and *road* are both derived from *ride*; and the spelling not only marks the difference of meaning, but is determined in each word by specific reasons. In the Past Tenses of the Strong Verbs, the servile *e* is generally preferred to the digraph; *az*, *broke*, *spoke*,—not *broak*, *spoak*; while the digraph is perhaps usually, though far from universally, preferred in the nouns. Hence *rode* follows the analogy of the Past Tenses, while *road* accords with the prevailing form in nouns. In *breach* and *speech*, compared with *break* and *speak*, there is a remarkable diversity; and it would seem that, on etymological grounds, *speech* should be written *speak* (with *ea* in stead of *ee*): *break*, *broke*, *breach*; *speak*, *spoke*, *speak*. On the other hand ought not *break* to be pronounced *breek*, in stead of *braik*? and will it not be so pronounced, sooner or later? In *spread* and *read* (Present),—*spread* and *read* (Past),—we have another variety. It would seem that *spread* (Present) ought to be pronounced *spreed*, just as *read* (Present) is *reed*; while in both verbs, the Past Tense should be spelt with the single letter *e*, as the vowel is short; *spreed*, *reed*; but it is perhaps advisable to write the latter with a double consonant, *redd*, to distinguish it from the adjectiv *red*. Many other questions arise with regard to nouns and verbs, which require to be examined in detail.

Why should we spell *noun* and *renown* differently? They are identical, both phonetically and etymologically. *Noun* and *pronoun* are, I believe, the only words in which this diphthong is spelt with *ou* when followed by *n* alone. It is such motiveless anomalies, as these, that cause so much difficulty. Let us by all means spell *noun* and *pronoun* like *renown*, and the rest; *az*, *clown*, *crown*, *down*, *drown*, *frown*,

town. It would be wel if we coud go furdher, and spel dhis diphthong widh dhe di·graph *ow*, in sted ov *ou*, wherevver it occurs. On dhe odh·er hand, if we would always spel dhe sound ov “long oo,” az in group, soup, widh *oo* in sted ov *ou* (groop, soop), we should make a great stride towards redu·cing the inconsistent and perplexing u·ses ov dhe di·graph *ou*. If dhe sin·gul letter *u* were adopted for “short oo,” and u·zed in all cases, az wuld, shuld, cud, for would, should, coud (coud), dhen *ou* would be left az a simple equiv·alent ov *oa* (“long o”), az in mould, controul.

Dhe sound ov “short oo” has com to be asso·ciated widh four modes ov spelling; dhe sin·gul letters, *u* (full), and *o* (woman), and dhe di·graphs *ou* (would) and *oo* (wood). Dhe sound itself forms one ov dhe moast characteristic differences between dhe English lan·guaje az spo·ken in dhe North and in the South ov England. In dhe Nordhern counties, dhis (dhe orig·inal) sound iz stil prev·alent, while in dhe South it seems to be dy·ing out, havving been super·seded by dhe remarkable sound ov *u* in *but*, which Mr. Ellis beliefs to be compar·ativly mod·ern. In dhe North dhey say “cum up” (short)—not “coom oop” (long); while in dhe South we say “cum up.” Dhis raizes dhe moast difficult ov all dhe ques·tions connected widh vow·el spelling: and furdher discussion iz required in order to determin whedh·er dhe orthog·raphy ought not to be chanjed from time to time, to make it conform to dhe chanjes ov pronuncia·tion, and if so, to what standard ov pronuncia·tion it should be made to conform.

14 DAY USE
RETURN TO DESK FROM WHICH BORROWED

LOAN DEPT.

This book is due on the last date stamped below, or
on the date to which renewed.

Renewed books are subject to immediate recall.

14 Jan '63 RAW

REC'D LD

JAN 20 1963

JUL 19 1969 57

REC'D CIRC DEPT

JUN 20 '74

JAN 04 1988

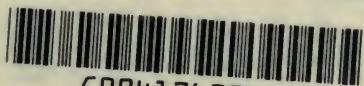
AUTO. DISC.

JAN 5 1988

LD 21A-50m-12,'60
(B6221s10)476B

General Library
University of California
Berkeley

8
U.C. BERKELEY LIBRARIES



C004176296

